INSIDE: MORE THAN 30 AWESOME, LOCAL GIFT IDEAS
Oh What Fun

The best gifts are unique, finely crafted and available nowhere else—a wondrous present your loved ones perhaps had no idea they even wanted but now realize they can’t wait to try out. You’ve given something they’ll remember for a long time.

That’s the joy of local giving, and giving back to the community. Keeping it local means you help make someone else’s Christmas bright by keeping dollars circulating longer.

You can’t buy that online. You can’t get that in a national department store.

Immerse yourself in the season, in this special place we all call home. We present the places, the celebrations, the kitchens and galleries of this wondrous time of year.

Our Gift Guide is designed to help you navigate your holidays—to make your planning and shopping and celebrating this season a little easier. Inside you’ll find events, treats and great gift ideas provided by local businesses.

We wish you the happiest of holidays and the brightest of seasons.

Host Like A Pro

LEAVE THE HEADACHES FOR THE MORNING AFTER

Charcuterie plates and “grazing tables” have made a huge impact in entertaining in the past few years. Traditionally composed of high-quality meats, cheeses, nuts and spreads—all of which you can find from local vendors—up your game by including seasonal fruits such as pomegranates, cranberries, persimmons and pears. Squash can double as additional decor, and using eucalyptus leaves and fresh rosemary sprigs add a dash of green (and smell heavenly).

Make your cleanup a breeze by lining your table with butcher paper and setting the food directly on top.

On a budget? Don’t overlook the simple treasure that is soup. Nothing is more comforting on a cold winter’s night, and it’s easy to please even the pickiest of palates while keeping your pocketbook happy. Soup bases can easily be made gluten-free or vegan for those with dietary restrictions, but soup doesn’t have to be boring. Make a soup “bar” by including various veggies, cheeses, pasta, meats and more that would pair well with your base, and let guests choose their soups.

Shop Local Top 5

TOP REASONS WHY SHOPPERS PREFER SMALL AND LOCAL RETAILERS

Percent say they offer a unique product. 61
Percent say they couldn’t find a product from other sources. 49
Percent say they want to support the community or small businesses. 40
Percent like to try new retailers. 29
Percent say they like the innovative shopping experience. 24
Holiday Events

GIFTING BY THE NUMBERS

$68

Amount from every $100 spent at a local business that continues to circulate in the local community. Wages, local taxes and donations continue to do work in the local economy.

64 95

Percent of new jobs in the United States that are created by small businesses. Small companies create 1.5 million jobs annually in the United States.

59.3

Percent of local manufacturers who say they reuse or recycle materials. Buying from a locally owned business also conserves energy and resources in the form of less fuel for transportation and less packaging.

DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY: The Downtown Bellingham Partnership hosts a Downtown Holiday Festival from 6pm-9pm Sat., Dec. 7 at the Depot Market Square, 1100 Railroad Ave. In addition to the lighting of a new, sustainable 28-foot holiday tree by Mayor Kelli Linville, there will be an artisan market, cider and cookies, a 2nd- over hay garden, food trucks, craft tables, dance performances, caroling and more.

INFO: www.downtownbellingham.com

SKAGIT SYMPHONY: “Christmas-time is Here” will be the focus of a Skagit Symphony concert at 7:30pm Fri., Dec. 13 in Mount Vernon at McIntyre Hall, 2501 E. College Way. “Travel through time with us as we treat you to a millennium of music,” they say. Tickets are $10-$45.

INFO: www.mcintyrehall.org

DARKNESS AND LIGHT: Bellingham Community Chorus presents “Darkness and Light”—seasonal songs that provide the opportunity to reminisce and time to hope and dream—Dec. 13-15 at St. James Presbyterian Church, 910 14th St. Admission is $15.

INFO: www.bellinghamcommunitychorus.org

NOEL ENSEMBLE: Experience a magical afternoon of music from around the world on harps, strings, percussion and flute interlaced with enchanting readings celebrating winter and yuletide when the Noel Ensemble presents its 14th annual seasonal concert at 3pm Sat., Dec. 14 in Lynden at the Jansen Art Center, 341 Front St. Tickets are $25.

INFO: www.jansentheartcenter.org

BOWMAN BAY HOLIDAY: Enjoy complimentary hot chocolate and baked goods have your picture taken with Santa, and be serenaded by local choirs and more at the annual Bowman Bay Holiday happening from 3pm-7pm Sat., Dec. 14 at the Bowman Bay picnic area at Deception Pass State Park. Suggested donation is $5 per car.

INFO: www.deceptionpassfoundation.org

THE NAUGHTY LIST

Frisky Fandoms Burlesque will present “The Naughty List” Holiday Market and Cabaret Dec. 12-13 at Broadway Hall, 1300 Broadway St. Support local artists and browse an array of vendors to find that perfect last-minute gift for someone special on your list in the afternoon, then stick around for 6pm and 9pm burlesque shows. Admission is free to the market, $20 for the performances.

INFO: www.eventbrite.com

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INFO: www.eventbrite.com

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Beauty in Bellingham

Sure, December is French for “mayhem,” but a visit to painter Ben Mann’s Holiday Open Studios every Friday through Sunday through Dec. 22 promises hot cider and cool art. After 20 years of working in Fairhaven, he’s proud to have created affordable gifts—from frame-worthy $5 greeting cards and children’s books to originals on canvas that embody the ‘ham.

WHERE: 1000 Harris Ave.
INFO: www.ben-mann.com

All is Bright

Give the Gift of Calm with MJ Esthetics. This holiday season, take time to relax and put your body and mind at ease with our locally made, organic, fair-trade skin care line. Our CBD-infused products are 100 percent THC-free and include serene salves, luxurious bath bombs, nourishing moisturizers and luscious lubricant.

INFO: www.mjesthetics.com
For a complete list of winter classes: whatcomcommunityed.com
360.383.3200

Food & Wine • Art • Travel
Photography • Dance • Consumer Technology
Chuckanut Writers Conference
Pinot & Prose: Willamette Road Trip...
and so much more!

We’ve taken the guesswork out of searching for the perfect gifts from locally owned businesses!
Navigate by price range, giftee category, and business name to find just what you’re looking for.

Sustainable Connections

Give from where you live with our LOCAL GIFT GUIDE

lovesustainableconnections.org
Enjoy a clean car during the holidays!
Tired of driving a dirty car? Cross Auto Detail will restore your car’s interior back to a “like new” condition, protect your vehicle’s paint from harsh winter elements and so much more!
Score 15% Off Your First Detail
facebook.com/crossautodetail IG: @crossautodetail
Browse Services & Book Online @ www.crossautodetailnw.com

Locally Handmade Gifts for Everyone on Your List!
Good Earth Pottery
Since 1969
In Historic Fairhaven
1000 Harris Avenue, Bellingham - goodearthpots.com
A Holiday Classic

Opus Performing Arts is proud to present *The Nutcracker* in collaboration with Bellingham Arts Academy for Youth (BAAY) at 7pm Dec. 18-19 at the Mount Baker Theatre. The classic winter ballet with a unique theatrical twist, this exciting performance includes many new surprises in addition to the wonderful choreography, costumes and sets from last year's premiere. It is sure to delight viewers of all ages!

WHERE: 104 N. Commercial St.
INFO: www.opusbellingham.com

Made with (Local) Love

Good Earth Pottery has been supporting the clay arts in historic Fairhaven since 1969. Representing more than 45 curated local artists, the gallery offers a wide variety of functional pottery and ceramic art—gifts that will be enjoyed for years to come.

WHERE: 1000 Harris Ave.
INFO: www.godearthpots.com

Joy to the Pickford

’Tis the season to gift the movie buff in your life! All membership levels available, and packages come with Pickford Film Center goodies and one free popcorn (real butter included).

WHERE: 1318 Bay St.
INFO: www.pickfordfilmcenter.org
Give the Art of Baking

Come bake with us at the King Arthur Flour Baking School at the Bread Lab. Experience firsthand the craft of baking with classes for all levels, from home bakers to professionals, taught by our expert instructors.

See the full schedule online at:
KingArthurFlour.com/school
Bigfoot is Coming to Town

For the ultimate adventurer. Book a trip with the Bigfoot Adventures and explore places this elusive creature has been seen, heard or his tracks found. Joey and Ray have spent a lifetime researching these locations and interviewing locals to find riveting stories that are fascinating and compelling. Night trips, day trips and multi-day trips offered, starting at $75. Join us as we take you off the beaten path in our desire to show you Sasquatch habitat while teaching you to use night vision, cast tracks, and practice calling techniques used to attract Bigfoot. Gift cards available.

INFO: www.thebigfootadventures.com

Jingle Bell Rocks

For unique gifts, Lucy Mae VanZanden of Todd’s Monuments loves working with people to create one-of-a-kind sandblasted stones, garden stones, pet stones and even headstones. Check out her work at Smith & Vallee Gallery and the Lucky Dumpster in Edison and the Museum of Northwest Art in LaConner, or reach out today for a customized project.

WHERE: 18623 Main St., Conway
INFO: www.toddsmonuments.com

Gifts on Gifts

We get it, shopping from your couch often beats finding parking and waiting in line, but plenty of locally owned businesses also offer online shopping and even shipping. Check local online shops first, and feel better spending money in your sweatpants. Search for ideas with Sustainable Connections’ online gift guide.

INFO: www.sustainableconnections.org/gift-guide
Make Each Day Your Masterpiece.

Shop at the Museum Store this Holiday Season

Open Wed. - Sun.
Noon - 5 PM

Lightcatcher building
250 Flora Street
whatcommuseum.org

Get a $25 coupon for every $150 gift card purchased.

Gift Cards and Coupons can be used for hotel stays, spa treatments, even restaurant dining!

Purchased between Nov 29 - Dec 24, 2019.

804 10th St Bellingham WA 360.756.1005
www.thechrysalisinnandspabellingham.curiocollection.com

Pickford Film Center

Winter Membership Drive

Become a PFC Member, renew your membership, or give the gift of membership to a friend between November 1 - December 31 and you will be entered into a drawing to win a coveted Goldfinger Card.

That’s a full year of free movies for you and a friend at the Pickford and the Limelight!

Join or Renew Online, at the Box Office, or by Mail.
Old World Delights

Old World Deli is the perfect place to find gifts for your food-loving family and friends. Build a box or basket with our unique selection of preserves, cocktail fixings, pickled vegetables, olives, pasta and sauces, cookies, chocolates, canned fish, olive oil and vinegars, salt and seasonings, wine, vermouth and specialty beverages. Not sure what to do? We’ll make a basket or box for you!

WHERE: 1228 N. State St.
INFO: www.oldworldbellingham.com

Zen for the Holidays

Veritas Massage Studio specializes in an individualized approach to healing, wellness and peace. Using skillful techniques with deep intuition, we combine many modalities to create the most effective massage for you. With a history of service for more than 14 years, come and enjoy a relaxing, peaceful environment. Massage is a gift that replenishes the mind and spirit.

WHERE: 120 Cornwall Ave.
INFO: www.veritasmassage.com

Baby, It’s Cold Outside

This holiday season, give the ones you love the gift of good cheers with glassware from Miracle at Swim Club. And while you’re there, be sure to pick up a gift certificate that can be redeemed for drinks and food all year long!

WHERE: 1157 11th St.
INFO: www.swimclubbar.com

Little Saint Kick

Looking for a fantastic place to master Muay Thai or boxing? Want to have a blast in a high-energy bootcamp class? Smile, sweat and learn at Pure Fitness Martial Arts! Our knowledgeable and certified instructors offer a unique P.F.M.A. environment for you and the family so you can feel safe, make friends and work out. Come try us out!

WHERE: 1801 Ellis St.
INFO: www.purefitnessmartialarts.com
Celebrate the Holidays at McIntyre Hall!
Enjoy cherished memories with family and friends at Holiday Events and Concerts throughout the year!

DECK THE HALLS AND ALL THAT JAZZ 12/3
Skagit Valley College

THE NUTCRACKER 12/6-8
Skagit Valley Academy of Dance

CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE 12/13
Skagit Symphony

HERALDING CHRISTMAS 12/14-15
Skagit Valley Chorale

HOLIDAY JOY 12/14
Fidalgo Youth Symphony

WINTER CONCERT 12/16
Mount Vernon High School Choirs

HOLIDAY CONCERT 12/19
Mount Vernon High School Bands & Choirs

THE NUTCRACKER 12/20-22
Northwest Ballet Theater

THE JOURNEY’S CHRISTMAS CONCERT 12/23

Give the Gift of Great Entertainment!

McIntyre Hall Presents

Martin Taylor
Friday, February 7

The Paperboys
Friday, March 6

RISE STAR
THE HAMILTON TRIBUTE BAND
Saturday, March 14

YAO YAO
Saturday, March 21

Nordic Fiddlers Bloc
Friday, April 3

ORCHESTRE LES MANGELEPA
Friday, April 18

360.416.7727 mcintyrehall.org

On the Mount Vernon Campus of Skagit Valley College 2501 E College Way, Mount Vernon

The ULTIMATE PNW EXPERIENCE AWAITS!

Come take a walk on the wild side into Sasquatch habitat! Learn to use night vision, cast tracks, and practice calling techniques used to attract Bigfoot.

For the person who has everything... except Bigfoot.

Day, evening and multi-day trips available.

To book, visit www.bigfootisalive.com, call (360) 319-4154 or email info@thebigfootadventures.com

PURE FITNESS:
BOXING
BOOTCAMP
MUAY THAI
KICKBOXING
KIDS MARTIAL ARTS

1801 ELLIS ST
BELLINGHAM
WA 98225
360-306-8478

FAMILY RATES AVAILABLE
Gifts A’Plenty

Current and Furbish features inspiring and unique items for a colorful and creative life. You’ll find furniture, housewares, pillows, throws, lamps, candles, soaps, lotions, cards, books, art, glassware and more, oh my. We are also the home of Scott Ward Art. Come visit today!

WHERE: 1115 Harris Ave.
INFO: www.currentandfurbish.com

Loving Local

Shopping locally is one of the easiest and most fun ways to find gifts for friends and family. At Village Books and Paper Dreams, some of our favorite gifts of the season are Samish Bay Soaps—locally made, individually wrapped and ready to go. Mod Socks are also a local favorite—from holiday designs to funky fun.

WHERE: 1200 11th St.
INFO: www.villagebooks.com

Mrs. Claus Approved

A dress for everything. Flattering, functional and festive, Nuu-Muu’s exercise-and-everything-else dress is perfect for the holiday season and year-round adventure. The breathable four-way stretch material never wrinkles and dries quickly, meaning she can go for a run, run errands, or run the meeting in this comfortable and capable dress.

WHERE: 1715 Ellis St., #102
INFO: www.nuu-muu.com

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Have you experienced live music with your community orchestra? The Bellingham Symphony Orchestra is a volunteer-based orchestra performing music of all ages to audiences of all ages throughout Whatcom County. Attend a concert. Engage with our youth programs. Enjoy powerful, beautiful and inspiring music from talented local musicians.

WHERE: 366 Champion St.
INFO: www.bellinghamsymphony.org

Gifts A’Plenty

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WHERE: 1115 Harris Ave.
INFO: www.currentandfurbish.com
Thrill Families

**A Christmas Carol**

SUN DEC 22 3:00PM

$69.50, $59.50, $51.50, $29.50*

**Stunt Dog Experience**

SAT MAR 14 2 & 7PM

$16.50, $13.50, $11.50, $8.50*

Excite Broadway Fans

**An American Princess**

SUN JAN 19 7:30PM

$89.50, $79.50, $69.50, $39.50*

**Finding Neverland**

SAT APR 4 7:30PM

$89.50, $79.50, $69.50, $39.50*

Please Music Lovers

**Sweet Honey in the Rock**

FRI JAN 17 7:30PM

$59.50, $50.50, $40.50, $30.50*

**Georgia on My Mind: Celebrating the Music of Ray Charles**

FRI FEB 7 7:30PM

$69.50, $59.50, $51.50, $29.50*

Inspire Little Dancers

**Catapult**

WED MAR 18 7:00PM

$45.50, $40.50, $35.50, $21.50*

**Dance Theatre Harlem: 50**

SAT MAY 16 7:30PM

$69.50, $65.50, $55.50, $39.50*

*Plus applicable fees.

Mount Baker Theatre is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the performing arts.

The Holidays Are Here

AND WE’RE HERE TO HELP

Throwing a Party?
We have wonderful Holiday Platters with Meats & Cheeses, antipasti and more. We also offer Catering services.

Need to find a great gift?
We have Fine Wines for every price & palate, House-Made Meats, Quality Market items, and a great Cocktail & Vermouth section.

1228 N. State Street, Downtown Bellingham - 360.738.2090
Sunday-Monday 11-4  Tuesday-Wednesday 11-6  Thursday-Saturday 11-8

360.441.2526 | 1319 Cornwall Ave Bellingham, WA

GIVE THE GIFT OF

healing • wellness • peace

Gift certificates available at

veritasmassage.com
And to All a Good Night


WHERE: 104 N. Commercial St.
INFO: (360) 734-6080 or www.mountbakertheatre.com

Cooking for Santa

The King Arthur Flour Baking School welcomes all bakers, no matter your skill level or baking interest. Classes range from introductory demonstrations to intensive week-long professional courses, with a wide variety of hands-on classes for all ages. Give the gift of baking this holiday season by purchasing a gift card or class for the baker in your life!

WHERE: 11768 Westar Lane, Burlington
INFO: www.kingarthurflour.com/baking-school
Give the gift of local and organic CBD!

mj esthetics

Shop online and save 15% on your entire purchase. Use code: BELLINGHAMMADE

www.mjesthetics.com

- Pain Relieving Topicals
- Plant Based Infused Skin Care
- CBD Hemp Oil Drops

Organic, fair trade, local herbs and THC free ingredients.

Happy Holidays from TROVE

TROVE COFFEE
8AM - 6PM
trovecoffee.com
360.393.4983
228 N. Sabin Way, Bellingham, WA

TROVE CANNABIS
8AM - 11:45PM
trovecannabis.com
360.393.3459
216 N. Sunshine Way, Bellingham, WA

This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of the reach of children.
**Season's Treatings**

Trove Cannabis is here for you whether you're new to cannabis or an expert. With our everyday low prices and a wide selection of products, we have something for everybody. Come in today, our friendly and knowledgeable budtenders are here for you!

**WHERE:** 218 N. Samish Way  
**INFO:** www.trovecannabis.com

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**A Cup of Cheer**

Trove Coffee offers a relaxing and welcoming atmosphere for everyone. Come enjoy exceptional local coffee, beer, wine and more! Our expanded CBD selection includes brands we know and trust. Expect excellent quality, sustainability and kindness, one cup at a time.

**WHERE:** 228 N. Samish Way  
**INFO:** www.trovecoffee.com

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**Merry Gifting at the Museum**

The Museum Store inside Whatcom Museum's Lightcatcher building offers a unique selection of gift items and merchandise for all ages and interests. Find home décor, handmade jewelry, holiday cards and decorations, art books, puzzles and toys. Don't forget, Museum membership makes a great gift—one that keeps on giving all year long!

**WHERE:** 250 Flora St.  
**INFO:** www.whatcommuseum.org/visit/museum-store/

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**Forget the Milk and Cookies**

Kulshan Brewing Company has a multitude of options for the beer-lovers on your list. We have a whole new lineup of hoodies and sweatshirts fresh off the press, as well as cozy beanies, baby onesies and a slough of Kitten Mittens paraphernalia. Can't decide what to get those picky peeps on the list? We've got gift cards. And don't forget the greatest gift of all: BEER! Kulshan's 500ml bottles make the perfect stocking stuffers. Come on in and have a pint while you shop!

**WHERE:** 2238 James St., 537 Kentucky St.  
**INFO:** www.kulshanbrewing.com

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*DISCLAIMER: This product has intoxicating effects and may be habit forming. Marijuana can impair concentration, coordination, and judgment. Do not operate a vehicle or machinery under the influence of this drug. There may be health risks associated with consumption of this product. For use only by adults twenty-one and older. Keep out of the reach of children.*
Unique items for a colorful and creative life

1115 Harris Ave.
360-733-3224
www.currentandfurbish.com

~ In Historic Fairhaven ~

FINLANDIA
FEB 9

BETWEEN WORLDS
MAR 15

BRAHMS' VIOLIN
MAY 31

Your Community. Your Orchestra.
WWW.BELLINGHAMSYMPHONY.ORG

‘TIS THE SEASON FOR SYMPHONY
Save 25% on concert tickets with promo code JINGLE during the month of December!

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BUILDING COMMUNITY SINCE 1980

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1200 11th St, Bellingham, WA
360.671.2626 • Open Daily
& 430 Front St, Lynden, WA - Stop by!

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www.nuu-muu.com

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CANDY
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Unique Ornaments
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Jewelry
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360.671.2626 • Open Daily
& 430 Front St, Lynden, WA - Stop by!

DRESS up. Feel good.

The dress that does what you do. Beautifully.

Special holiday shopping hours:

Saturdays | 1 - 4 pm
Nov. 30, & Dec. 7, 14, & 21

Thursdays | 3 - 6 pm

1715 Ellis Street
Suite 102
Bellingham, WA
Let’s go, Maestro!

Give the gift of great entertainment during the holidays and throughout the year. From the “McIntyre Hall Presents” series of international artists and special events to community performances by the Pacific Northwest Opera, Skagit Symphony, Skagit Valley Chorale, Northwest Ballet Theater, Fidalgo Youth Symphony, Skagit Valley Academy of Dance, and many more. Join us for a season of events that enrich, inspire and entertain!

WHERE: 2501 E College Way,
Mount Vernon
INFO: (360) 462-7727 or
www.mcintyrehall.org

Holly Jolly Vendors

The Bellingham Farmers Market has been connecting the public with local farmers, artisans and food producers since 1992. This hyper-local market is open every Saturday through Dec. 21 and features Whatcom and Skagit county vendors. Shop for holiday decor, local produce, meal prep items and gift-giving ideas—all within the Depot’s unique indoor/outdoor setting. A true Bellingham experience you won’t want to miss. Support your neighbors, friends, and community—buy local!

WHERE: 100 Railroad Ave.
INFO: www.bellinghamfarmers.org
FIRST THREE WEEKENDS IN DECEMBER
Friday - Sunday 10am to 6pm

Dec. 6-8th, 13-15th, 20-22nd
Locally crafted by Northwest artisans!

Jewelry • Illustrations • Knitting • Soap
Photography • Crochet • Metal Works
Pottery • Woodworking • Glass Etching
and much more!

Sunset Square
Between JoAnn Fabrics and El Gitano

1125 E. Sunset Drive
Take exit 255 in Bellingham
http://pacificartsmarket.com

HOLIDAY POP-UP BAR!
NOV. 29 - DEC. 31
1147 Eleventh St. Fairhaven, Wa.

Ben Mann Studios presents...
The More The Merrier!
Hot Cider & Cool Art
Fri/Sat/Sun: Nov. 29-Dec. 22. (11a-4p)

((Web)) www.ben-mann.com
((Tel)) 360.920.4022
Ben's paint studio is at 1000 Harris Avenue
at the corner of 10th Street. Entry
between Artwood Gallery and Good Earth Pottery.
Third floor, studio #18. Think culture, with cardico!
Yule love the view.
**Let it Shine!**

Bring your vehicle to Cross Auto Detail to guarantee the highest quality detailing services. Owner Mitch Cross intricately restores dirty vehicles not only with passion, but also with the best products available. Make those clean car dreams a reality without any of the hassle. See for yourself and schedule your service today.

**INFO:** [www.crossautodetailnw.com](http://www.crossautodetailnw.com)

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**All is Calm**

Kayla Blier is a LMT, personal trainer and owner of Lupine Fitness and Massage in Bellingham. Kayla helps her clients live strong and balanced lifestyles free of pain and full of self-love. Services include therapeutic massage, cupping, assisted stretching, fitness and program design, and much more. Browse services and connect with Kayla at your earliest convenience.

**WHERE:** 2130 Grant St.
**INFO:** [www.LupineFitnessandMassage.com](http://www.LupineFitnessandMassage.com)

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**For the Lifelong Learner**

Classes make great presents! Give your loved ones an unforgettable gift this holiday season. From tantalizing cooking classes and inspiring art classes to exciting road trips, there’s an extraordinary Community and Continuing Education experience for everyone on your list via Whatcom Community College. Call to register, and we’ll provide a festive certificate for easy gift-giving.

**WHERE:** 235 W Kellogg Rd.
**INFO:** (360) 383-3200 or [www.whatcomcommunityed.com](http://www.whatcomcommunityed.com)

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**Santa’s Favorite Pastime**

Helping you achieve the fitness you want in the place that you love. At Bellingham Training and Tennis Club, we help people feel better so they can do what they love! Feel strong with a group training workout. Get energized in our Ride cycle studio. Be social while having fun with tennis. We’re here to help you move better, play better, and enjoy life more! For membership details, visit our website.

**WHERE:** 800 McKenzie Ave.
**INFO:** [www.betrainingtennis.com](http://www.betrainingtennis.com)
Cookies, Cookies Everywhere
CRAFTING AN ARMY OF SWEET TREATS
By Carey Ross

I love the holiday season. I love the songs and the decorations and the gift fairs and the many opportunities to put my money where my mouth is by shopping local for presents and holiday accoutrements from my favorite shops and vendors.

I also love cookies.

I am not a good enough cook to plan and execute a turkey dinner for 12 or latkes for a crowd or a feast of any fishes, much less a crowd or a feast of any fishes, much less an Amish ginger cookies—but over the holiday seasons I’ve experimented with many different recipes and types of treats. However, I always try and fit them into the general categories that seem to feed nostalgia and satiate the sweet tooth: something buttery, something nutty, something fruity, something chocolate and something spicy. That makes for a well-balanced assortment in which everyone can find something to like.

PREPARATION IS KEY
For me, the Great Cookie Bakeoff begins long before I preheat my oven for the first batch. The first thing I do is set aside the time and let those who share my kitchen know I’ll be taking it over. Then, I dig out my recipes and figure out the quantities of each ingredient I need and inventory what I have on hand. Only then do I make my shopping list. When shopping, it is best not to be stingy. Ending up with an extra bag of flour or pound of butter is far preferable to shutting down the whole operation midway for an emergency store run. Speaking of butter, nothing derails a baking endeavor more thoroughly than not having room-temperature butter. I leave my butter and eggs out on my kitchen counter for 24-48 hours before I start baking.

CHOICE WISELY
I’ve been baking the same four kinds of cookies for several years—coconut jam thumbprints, peanut butter chocolate chunk, a variation of chocolate crinkles, and my take on Amish ginger cookies—but over the holiday seasons I’ve experimented with many different recipes and types of treats. However, I always try and fit them into the general categories that seem to feed nostalgia and satiate the sweet tooth: something buttery, something nutty, something fruity, something chocolate and something spicy. That makes for a well-balanced assortment in which everyone can find something to like.

EQUIPMENT MAKES THE DIFFERENCE.
These days, I have a stand mixer (thanks, mom!), and while it does make life easier, I would not consider it a necessity to creating a cookie production line. A hand mixer works fine. So does a wooden spoon. But the same cannot be said for other baking equipment. It is worth every dime to shell out a little extra for heavy, professional-grade sheet pans (you can use them year-round and they’ll outlast you). Cooling racks are indispensable for maintaining the quality of your cookies and you’ll want to buy more than you think you’ll need. Trust me.

DON’T GET FUSSY WITH FANCY PACKAGING.
When it comes to parceling out and packing up the cookies, it can be tempting to want to go all out. I know. I’ve experimented with cute boxes, making hand-decorated hang tags, tying fancy bows, individually wrapping each package—you name it. However, I’ve scrapped that approach for two reasons: 1. At the end of my marathon of baking, I simply do not have the energy or creative wherewithal. 2. The fancier the packaging, the higher the cost, and I have a philosophical difference with blowing my cookie budget on things no one can eat. These days, I opt for cellophane bags, bought in bulk, and curling ribbon to keep it festive. Tasty cookies speak for themselves—they don’t need the window dressing.

ORDER A PIZZA.
The most valuable lesson I’ve learned: No one wants to make a meal after baking all day. Treat yourself to takeout. You’ve earned it.

For Gardeners
HOLIDAY GIFTS
By Melinda Myers

Give the gift of gardening and provide seasons of joy.

Gardeners will appreciate help keeping their tools handy as they work their way through their landscape. Give them a bucket, a pair of gloves and a few tools to keep by the door for those quick planting, weeding and deadheading sessions. Or decorate an old mailbox and turn it into tool storage to be mounted in the garden.

Mobile tool storage caddies have pockets for small tools, secure large-handled tools and provide a place to hold compost, cut flowers or vegetables. They’re easy to maneuver and eliminate multiple trips to the shed.

Consider giving a harvest basket, bucket or tool caddy filled with some basics. Look for ergonomic tools that are built to ease stress on joints.

Keep their green thumbs in shape all winter long by providing pretty pots, potting mix and seeds. Look for kits like the galvanized organic kitchen herbs growing kit (pictured) that provides all they’ll need to grow their own fresh herbs.

And for those that like flowers but have limited time or interest in growing, give them a waxed amaryllis bulb. They won’t need to water or fertilize and will watch in amazement as this plant bursts into bloom with no effort on their part.

Don’t know what to send? Cut flowers, flowering bulbs and plants are sure to generate a smile in record time. So, break out your gift list and look for ways to give the gift of gardening.

Info: www.MelindaMyers.com
Amish-ish Ginger Cookies

**INGREDIENTS**
- Makes 36-48 cookies
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ cup molasses
- 2½ cups flour
- 1½ teaspoons baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice (this is approximate, you may need more or less depending on how strong your pumpkin pie spice is)
- ½ teaspoon ground ginger
- Raw sugar

**DIRECTIONS**
- Preheat oven to 350°.
- Cream together butter and sugar until fluffy. Add egg and molasses and beat thoroughly.
- Sift together flour, baking soda, salt, pumpkin pie spice and ginger.
- Combine wet ingredients with dry, mix until just incorporated.
- Roll dough into one-inch balls, and roll balls in raw sugar.
- Place one inch apart on parchment-lined baking sheet. Bake 8-12 minutes, cool on wire racks. Do not overbake.

Underneath the Tree

More than 30 artists and crafters are participating in this year’s Pacific Arts Market, displaying their creative, handcrafted wares Dec. 6-8, 13-15 and 20-22. Shoppers will find unique jewelry, pottery, woodwork, textiles, fiber art, bath and body products, book and paper art, leather, 3D art, clothing, accessories, holiday ornaments, paintings, photography, specialty foods and more—all while listening to music from local performers.

WHERE: 1125 E. Sunset Dr., suite 115
INFO: www.pacificartsmarket.com

Comfort and Joy

The Chrysalis Inn & Spa, now a part of Hilton’s Curio Collection, is known for providing a “respite for the body, mind and soul” at a stunning waterfront location in Fairhaven. Purchase a $150 gift card through Dec. 24 and receive a bonus $25 coupon to be used toward a luxurious spa treatment, a dinner at Keenan’s at the Pier, or a relaxing night’s stay in one of our gorgeous water-view rooms.

WHERE: 800 10th St.
INFO: www.thechrysalisinandspabellingham.curiocollection.com

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