

GIFTS

Gift Ideas	Of Interest
Homemade Navy Clock Using Navy buttons and a plastic plate, Sharon & Charlie Votava created an amazing USNA Class of '66 Clock.	Visit https://usna66.org/band-of-sisters/ to see photos of clock.
Nautical Creations at Lat-Long Shop 700 Second St., Annapolis, MD 410-353-3453 No website but google Lat Long Shop for the Facebook page to examples of her wares. It is a treat to go to her shop (across the street from the Maritime Museum) - so many Christmas and Navy things.	Donna LeCompte-Christhilf, owner and seamstress who owns and makes the creations is also an ovarian cancer survivor!
Custom Embroidery at Top Stitch 410-663-6388 topstitchemb2@gmail.com www.topstichonline.com Shirts, jackets, etc. can be embroidered with whatever you want.	Karen Hasenei owns the business. Bought business from Weidikin Brothers (?)
Bob & Brad X6 Pro Massage Gun Click on link to see info: Amazon . Works wonders for sore muscles and is effective for large muscle massaging. Surprisingly quiet.	One of the Band of Sisters' husband highly recommends.
An online shopping session together by phone or zoom. For teens and college students.	Especially for those who live far away
BagsofLove.com British company that does placemats from photos. Very fast. Look under "Dining" – Lori ordered the large ones. Perfect!	Recommended by Lori Scarbrough.
Journals/Diaries Include a nice pen for older children/adults. Leonardo da Vinci, Mark Twain, Thomas Edison, Marie Curie, Warren Buffet, Richard Branson, Lady Gaga, etc. all famously journal(ed) keeping notes and records of personal thoughts, musings and ideas.	Kids over 10 (could be younger, even!). Same for family you know have travel or adventures planned.
Softies: www.softiespjs.com "Heavenly bliss you'll wear all day" Short bed jacket, white or blue. One button at top.	Prices vary so shop around. From \$80-\$94.
A year of audible books , one a month. Or fewer. www.audible.com One selects a book to easily download onto a smartphone.	For people with eyesight problems, or walkers, or those who want to multi-task.
An Amaryllis bulb, or Racine Bakery Pastries (distinctive oval-shaped treat from Racine Couty, WI – known as "Kringles". Google both (Amazon sells them, of course)	For neighbors and friends
Scarves - all price ranges – at most clothing stores and online. You can truly never have too many, especially those with older necks!	For girlfriends.
Ginny Michaux's timeless novel, "A Tree for Antarctica" (Amazon and other book stores)	For anyone over 15
One dozen Titleist Pro V1 Golf Balls (\$54)	For golfers
Kids' Popper Toy (Fisher-Price, etc.)	For very young children – a classic toy!
Blue Apple Produce Saver – extends the life of veggies/fruit (can purchase on Amazon)	Great stocking stuffer
UCOMX Nano 3 in 1 Wireless Charger for iPhone/AirPods/iWatch and Compatible Travel Case for UCOMX for Nano (the devices and travel cases come in different colors)	Best Travel Accessory for 2023!

BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Topic	Title	Author
NOVELS		
"A rip-roaring, razor-sharp dissection of capitalism, class, greed, and the meaning of money itself that also manages to be a dazzling feat of storytelling on its own terms... Important and timely. The uniquely brilliant way in which Diaz tells that story, as meticulously researched as it is narratively exhilarating, makes it a novel not just for the present age but for the ages."—Vogue	Trust	Hernan Diaz
Army Criminal Investigation Agents Scott Brodie and Maggie Taylor have been separated for five months following their last assignment, a dangerous mission in Venezuela to locate and detain an infamous Army deserter. Now, in Berlin, they are reunited and tasked with investigating the murder of one of their own: an accomplished counterterrorism agent who had been stationed in western Germany, and whose body was discovered in a city park in the heart of Berlin's Arab refugee community...	Blood Lines: Scott Brodie Series, Book 2	Nelson DeMille
Rife with the indulgent pleasures of life among New York's one-percenters, Pineapple Street is a smart, escapist novel that sparkles with wit. Full of recognizable, loveable—if fallible—characters, it's about the peculiar unknowability of someone else's family, the miles between the haves and have-nots, and the insanity of first love—all wrapped in a story that is a sheer delight.	Pineapple Street	Jenny Jackson
A murder mystery locked inside a Great American Novel . . . Charming, smart, heart-blistering, and heart-healing. A novel about small-town secrets and the people who keep them.	The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store	James McBride
A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields of Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a family, and remains unsolved for nearly fifty years	The Berry Pickers	Amanda Peters
Goodreads <i>Most Anticipated Book</i> . "Suspenseful, sexy, and with incredibly entertaining storytelling, the first in Yarros' Empyrean series will delight fans of romantic, adventure-filled fantasy."—Booklist review. If the Hunger Games, Divergent, Harry Potter, and Game of Thrones had a baby, this would be it.	Fourth Wing: Empyrean, Book 1	Rebecca Yarros
Part memoir and part joyful romp through the fields of imagination, the story behind a beloved pseudonymous Twitter account reveals how a writer deep in grief rebuilt a life worth living. The book is two stories: a reclusive real-life writer who created a fictional character out of loneliness and thin air, and that of the magical Duchess Goldblatt herself, a bright light in the darkness of social media. Fans around the world are drawn to Her Grace's voice, her wit, her life-affirming love for all humanity, and the fun and friendship of the community that's sprung up around her.	Becoming Duchess Goldblatt	Anonymous
HISTORICAL FICTION		
Based on the remarkable true story of the record-breaking thoroughbred Lexington, Horse is a novel of art and science, love and obsession, and our unfinished reckoning with racism.	Horse	Geraldine Brooks
A great "end of the year" book and a love letter to city life in all its guts and grandeur. Based on the life and work of the poet and ad woman Margaret	Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk	Kathleen Rooney

Topic	Title	Author
Fishback, the highest paid female copywriter in the world during the 1930s, the book paints a portrait of a remarkable woman across the canvas of a changing America: from the Jazz Age to the onset of the AIDS epidemic; the Great Depression to the birth of hip-hop.		
HISTORY/NONFICTION/BIOGRAPHY/AUTOBIOGRAPHY		
In the 1920s, the richest people per capita in the world were members of the Osage Nation in Oklahoma. After oil was discovered beneath their land, the Osage rode in chauffeured automobiles, built mansions, and sent their children to study in Europe...Then, one by one, the Osage began to be killed off. The family of an Osage woman, Mollie Burkhart, became a prime target as more Osage were dying under mysterious circumstances, and many of those who dared to investigate the killings were themselves murdered...As the death toll rose, the newly created FBI took up the case... NOTE: there is an adaptation of the book for young readers <u>and</u> it was recently released as a movie starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert DeNiro, etc.	Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI	David Grann
The annals of British naval history abound with great and small adventures alike. None, however, captivates like the extraordinary tale of the HMS Wager. And no one can better recount such a hair-raising series of events than David Grann. With "The Wager," Grann tops his previous works of narrative nonfiction with this harrowing story of inconceivable hardship and the machinations of desperate men. To be sure, no incident contained in this book is without ample evidence proving it occurred.	The Wager	David Grann
For centuries, works of art have been stolen in countless ways from all over the world, but no one has been quite as successful at it as the master thief Stéphane Breitwieser. Carrying out more than two hundred heists over nearly eight years—in museums and cathedrals all over Europe—Breitwieser stole more than three hundred objects, until it all fell apart in spectacular fashion...However, unlike most thieves, Breitwieser never stole for money. Instead, he displayed all his treasures in a pair of secret rooms where he could admire them to his heart's content.	The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime and a Dangerous Obsession	Michael Finkel
The number one New York Times bestselling authors of Vanderbilt return with the history of a legendary American family, the Astors, and how they built and lavished their fortune. The story of the Astors is a quintessentially American story—of ambition, invention, destruction, and reinvention.	Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune	Anderson Cooper
Described by reviewers as "Gripping" and "Destined to be celebrated," for its characters, realism, writing, and well researched scenarios, A Tree for Antarctica grabs hold from the first page. Action starts in Chile, moves to South Carolina and high Canada, before plunging to the tip of South America and Antarctica in a quest to save Antarctica from exploitation while trying to reduce the dangerously high CO2 in earth's atmosphere.	A Tree for Antarctica	VJ (Ginny) Michaux
SPIRITUAL		
Sometimes it happens. After two thousand years, the human race may be given a second chance...When Joshua moves to a small cabin on the edge of town, the local people are mystified by his presence. A quiet and simple man, Joshua appears to seek nothing for himself. He supports himself by working as a carpenter. He charges very little for his services, yet his	Joshua: A Parable for Today	Joseph Girzone

Topic	Title	Author
<p>craftsmanship is exquisite. The statue of Moses that he carves for the local synagogue prompts amazement as well as consternation...What are the townsfolk to make of this enigmatic stranger? ...</p>		
<p>An incisive, sensitive exploration of the questions of life, death, mortality, and immortality uses the leaves of a tree as symbols of enjoying life to the fullest and accepting mortality with dignity and equanimity. "He experiences Spring, Summer and Fall, with all of their beauty and majesty. When Winter comes, and it is time for him to fall, to die, Freddie is frightened, and refuses to let go of his branch..."</p>	<p>The Fall of Freddie the Leaf: A Story of Life for All Ages</p>	<p>Leo Buscaglia</p>