

Fair Trade, Holiday Ideas, & Gift Giving Guide
from the
UC San Diego Library Sustainability Committee
2024



This holiday season and throughout the year, the Library Sustainability Committee's Gift Giving Guide makes it fun and easy to choose local, sustainable, fair-trade, and recycled gifts and more.

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Here are suggestions for gifts that support local small businesses and artisans, as well as gifts you can make yourself. The guide includes a carefully curated list of places to find fair-trade, sustainable items from around the globe, along with local sources for pre-loved gifts.

Sometimes the ideal gift is something a little less tangible. Researchers have found that for those who already have plenty, experiences bring more happiness than material possessions. And for some folks, a donation to a [favorite charity](#) is the perfect present.

For those looking to give an unforgettable experience (or at the very least, a fun one!), San Diego has so much to offer! Consider a gift card to a favorite restaurant; tickets to the movies, a concert, or the theater; or a membership to one of our local gardens or museums.

As always, this year's updated guide is full of resources and ideas that are great for the local economy, easy on the earth, and delightful to receive.

**Be well, hold those you love close, and enjoy the season!
UC San Diego Library Sustainability Committee**

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SUPPORT LOCAL SAN DIEGO

FARMERS MARKETS offer a rich variety of crafts and homemade items. Click below to discover farmers markets throughout the San Diego area:

- [Farm Bureau San Diego County](#) - Certified Farmers Markets

MEMBERSHIP GIFTS can be enjoyed all year long and have the added benefit of supporting local environmental groups or some of San Diego county's beautiful museums or gardens. Just to get you thinking, here are a few we came up with:

- **NEW!!!** The [Arts District at Liberty Station](#) has some nice galleries and museums to explore.
- **NEW!!** [Visions Museum of Textile Art](#) located in Liberty station
- [Balboa Park](#) Annual Passes (Family, Individual, or Explorer Plus) - Unlimited entry to 16 museums with one pass
- [Birch Aquarium](#) - Visit year round while supporting educational programming and conservation initiatives.
- [Japanese Friendship Garden](#) - A beautiful garden in the middle of Balboa Park. This LEED-certified garden and tea house offers programming revolving around sustainability topics.
- [San Diego Botanical Garden](#) - Enjoy year-round blooms as you stroll through 27 gardens, including an interactive children's garden with a multi-level tree house.
- [San Diego County Bicycle Coalition](#) - Contribute to creating a bicycle-friendly city. The Coalition sponsors events, offers maps and information, and advocates for safe biking and walking infrastructure.
- [San Diego Zoo](#)
- [Water Conservation Garden](#) - Enjoy 6 acres of beautifully themed gardens while learning about native plants, vegetable gardening, irrigation, and conservation.

LOCAL NONPROFITS OFFERING VITAL SERVICES

- **NEW!!! [Native Like Water](#)** - “Native Like Water (NLW) prepares and reintegrates teens and adults into ocean recreation, conservation, wellness, and inter-generational cultural self exploration.”
- **New!!! [Sharia’s Closet](#)** - provides clean, quality clothing and personal care items to those in need.
- **[Border Angels](#)** - A San Diego–based nonprofit that advocates for human rights and humane immigration reform and social justice with a particular focus on issues related to the US-Mexico border, Border Angels provides vital services including water drops in the desert, sheltering refugees, advising undocumented immigrants, educating the public, and more.
- **[Kitchens for Good](#)** - equipping people labeled as “unemployable” to launch meaningful careers.
- **[Monarch Schools](#)** - There are 23,000 homeless students in San Diego County. Monarch Schools help homeless students break the cycle of poverty through education.
- **[San Diego Coastkeeper](#)** - Give the gift of clean fishable, swimmable, and drinkable water with a one-time or recurring donation.
- **[San Diego Food Bank](#)** - Feed San Diego with your donations of dollars, products, or time.
- **[SanDiego350](#)** - Support a movement to prevent the worst impacts of climate change and climate injustice through education and outreach, public policy advocacy, and mobilizing people to take action.
- **[Union of Pan Asian Communities](#)** (UPAC) - Non-profit organization that provides health and human services to under-served Asian, Pacific Islander, Latino, Middle Eastern, East African, African American and other ethnic populations of San Diego
- **[Wild Willow Farm](#)** a non-profit educational farm located in South San Diego.

JOIN A CSA (COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE) to enjoy locally and organically grown food.

- **[Be Wise Ranch](#)** - Select from several pick-up sites in San Diego.
- **[Farm Fresh to You](#)** - Organic produce delivered to your door
- **[Garden of Eden Organics](#)** - Delivers to campus on Thursdays from 12:30–2:00
- **[Imperfect Produce](#)** – San Francisco–based company that ships imperfect organic produce at 30% less cost than grocery stores to select cities around the country, including San Diego!
- **[Solidarity Farms](#)** - Growing a more resilient and just food system for all. This farm does not have a CSA but has a roadside stand. Located in Pauma Valley
- **[Stehly Farms](#)** - Located in Valley Center
- **[Yasukochi Farms](#)** - This farm is located in Oceanside

CONSCIOUS DINING & COOKING - Amazing options are out there! Below are lists of dining and cooking options throughout San Diego:

- **New!!! [Ben & Esther's](#)** - Vegan deli
- **New!!! [Split Bakehouse](#)** Vegan bakery
- **New!!! [Tacotarian](#)** - Plant based Mexican eatery
- **New!!! [Veganic Thai Cafe](#)** - Plant based deliciousness
- **[Donna Jean](#)** - Plant based restaurant
- **[Maya's Cookies](#)** - Vegan cookies made in San Diego (black-owned)
- **[San Diego Coastkeepers list and tips](#)** - How to find sustainable seafood in San Diego
- **[San Diego's Essential Vegan & Vegetarian Restaurants](#)** - From *Eater San Diego*
- **[Vegan in San Diego](#)** – list to plant based restaurants
- **[The Yasai](#)** - A Japanese vegan restaurant.

SHOPPING AROUND TOWN

- **New!!! [Local Scoop](#)** located in Encinitas is a refill store that has many items in bulk, great cookies too.
- **New!!! [Mattress Makers](#)** - looking to buy a new mattress, sheets, or pillows? Family run business located in La Mesa.
- **New!!! [Sonora Refillery](#)** - located in Oceanside, specializes in household products; need a new jar or a certain type of sponge, get it here!
- **[Buy Black San Diego](#)** - A guide to black-owned businesses including restaurants, gifts, and services including nonprofits
- **[Dirt Don't Hurt](#)** - Shop online for skin care and oral care products. Woman owned, San Diego company, products also available at some stores and farmers markets
- **[Earthwell](#)** - Refill shop located in Kensington has many body care and cleaning products that can be purchased in bulk. Delivery available. Cute gifts too
- **[Fair Trade Décor](#)** - This family-run business in Coronado combines a passion for human rights with a love for decorative arts. In addition to offering home decor and personal accessories from over 40 countries, the store hosts events and participates in many community activities
- **[Origins Grocer](#)** - a zero waste grocery store
- **[Ocean Beach People's Organic Food Market](#)** - This market has an amazing deli, fair trade coffee, tea and chocolate and a small gifts/book section.
- **[Pigment](#)** - With locations in North Park and Point Loma, this artist-run, beautifully curated store features a variety of gifts made by local artisans, as well as unique pots and plants, and other treasures from around the world. Pick up the perfect gift or even a gift certificate to one of their many workshops.
- **[Summers Past Farms](#)** - Herb garden, gift shop, nursery, and classes

SHOPPING FAIR TRADE AND FUN GIFT IDEAS

FOR CONSCIOUS DECISION-MAKING check out these great resources before making your sustainable purchases:

- [1% for the Planet](#) - An international non-profit whose member businesses and nonprofits contribute at least 1% of their sales to environmental causes.
- [B Corporations](#) - Certified B Corporations are a new kind of business that balances purpose and profit. They are legally required to consider the impact of their decisions on their workers, customers, suppliers, community, and the environment. This is a community of leaders, driving a global movement of people using business as a force for good.
- [Charity Navigator](#) - This nonprofit guide to intelligent giving offers objective ratings to find charities you can trust and feel good about supporting.

ALL

- **New!!!** [Econscious Clothing](#) - sustainable apparel and accessories
- **New!!!** [Feelgoodz](#) - Slippers, flip-flops, hats and mittens read the story behind the company too.
- [Fair Indigo](#) - Clothing and gifts, some made in America, some fair trade. A staff favorite.
- [Eighth Generation](#) - Founded by the Snoqualmie Tribe, Eighth Generation provides a strong, ethical alternative to “Native-inspired” art and products through its artist-centric approach and 100% Native designed products.
- [National Wildlife Federation](#) - An online store with some organic t-shirts and other neat gifts; your purchases help support their wildlife programs.
- [Nature Conservancy](#) - offers a non-confrontational approach to preserving ecologically sensitive places worldwide.
- [North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems](#) -NATIFS - is a nonprofit dedicated to addressing the economic and health crises affecting Native communities by re-establishing Native foodways.
- **New!!** [Fair Trade Certified](#) - A choice for Fair Trade is a choice for a better, more equitable world. With every purchase, you are supporting ethical sourcing practices and sustainable livelihoods for farmers and workers.
- **New!!** [FairTrade America - Fairtrade Certified Clothing & Textiles](#): Wear your values! By choosing Fairtrade certified cotton products, you are creating a more equitable trading landscape for (and with!) farmers and workers. Fairtrade certified cotton is produced in accordance with our rigorous environmental, economic and social standards that are unique to this commodity.

- **New!! [Made Trade - Sustainable Holiday Shop](#):** \$\$\$ Ethical and sustainable goods in one place!
- **New!! [Gifts for Good](#):** Sustainable Eco-friendly gifts
- **New!! [Oceanic Society](#):** Sustainable and Eco-friendly Gift Guide for the Holidays.
- **New!! [Future](#):** Sustainable Gift Guide for Every Budget - Holiday gifts for every budget
- **New!! [Green America](#):** Green gifts for the Holidays!

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

- **New!!! [Beckons](#)** Yoga clothing
- **[Gaiam](#)** - Yoga clothing and accessories
- **[Klean Kanteen](#)** - Stay hydrated on the go! (certified B Corp and 1% for the Planet member)
- **[Patagonia](#)** - Environmentally conscious clothing (certified B Corp and 1% for the Planet member). Check out their [refurbished clothes](#) selection as well!

CLOTHING & SHOES

- **[Hazelnut Kids](#)** - Children's clothes, toys, and games
- **[icebreaker](#)** - Natural performance alternatives to synthetic based apparel to create a healthier more sustainable future for our species and the planet.
- **[Maggie's Organics](#)** - socks, leggings and apparel. The socks are so soft and comfortable.
- **[PrAna](#)** - Offering fair-trade clothing made from a variety of organic and recycled materials, PrAna maintains a commitment to "sustainability, community, and doing right."
- **[16 sustainable/ethical fashion brands](#)** (from Good Housekeeping)
- **[Soul Rebels](#)** - Fair-trade footwear handcrafted in Ethiopia
- **[Toms Shoes](#)** - For every pair of Toms shoes sold, another is given to someone in need. Enjoy your new shoes even more because someone else will be enjoying theirs, too, courtesy of Toms and you. Now just think of the potential if other companies did this, even for just one month a year.

FOOD RELATED ITEMS

- **[Bee's Wrap](#)** - An alternative to plastic wrap made from beeswax, organic cotton, and other natural fibers; reusable and compostable - (Also, see [Trader Joe's new offering of bee's wax wraps](#) at \$9.00 for a set of three!!)
- **[Bob's Red Mill](#)** - Fair Trade USA certified, non-GMO, and organic. Baking mixes and granola could be fun as parts of gift baskets.
- **[Chico Bags](#)** - Reusable bags, including snack and [produce bags](#), made from organic cotton and hemp (B Corp, 1% for the planet) and utensils
- **[Fair Trade Coffee](#)** - A guide to purchasing fair trade coffee.

- [Lunch Skins](#) - Reusable snack and sandwich bags, made in America. Buy online or brick-and-mortar fans can check out their [retail partners](#).
- [Mountain Rose Herbs](#) - Herbs, spices, and teas along with body-care items and aromatherapy products (USDA Organic, Oregon B Corp)
- [SKOY cloths](#) - Reusable cleaning cloths made of cotton and wood-based cellulose pulp. Use SKOY instead of paper towels for all your cleaning needs. (Local, woman owned business)
- [Soda Stream](#) - Make your own sparkling water and carbonated drinks. No more empty bottles. Carbonator cylinders can be exchanged when empty.
- [Tony's Chocolonely](#) - Fair Trade chocolate bars.
- [Vegan Essentials](#) - Gifts and food with a special holiday section

HANDBAGS

- [Harveys Bags](#) - Handbags made from recycled seat belts
- [Yoogi's Closet](#) - Authenticated pre-owned luxury goods

HANDCRAFTED & HOME GOODS

- [Aya Paper Co.](#) - This eco-friendly and Black-owned stationery brand offers “greeting cards and gifts to celebrate the people and moments that matter most.”
- [Boll and Branch](#) - Fair Trade certified cotton bedclothes.
- [Ecochoices](#) - variety of natural living products for every room in your home, including the baby's. Enjoy shopping for eco-toys and games, furniture and garden products, as well as hemp greeting cards, made from a blend of hemp and post-consumer recycled fiber.
- [Etsy](#) - The world's handmade marketplace offers neat one-of-a-kind gifts including recycled, upcycled, and repurposed items.
- [Food52](#) - Make it, pack it, eat it, and enjoy! These eco-friendly finds take you from kitchen to table and beyond.
- [Green Field Paper Company](#) - Handmade paper crafted in San Diego, includes hemp paper, junk-mail paper, garlic paper, Grow-A-Note greeting cards, and recycled wrapping paper. This company offsets its electricity use by purchasing wind energy credits.
- [Hempmania](#) - Enjoy products made with hemp: think purses, backpacks, cords, twines, and lip balm. Earth-friendly hemp grows naturally without pesticides and fertilizers.
- [Life without Plastic](#) - Find safe, high quality, ethically sourced, Earth-friendly alternatives to plastic products through this online shop.
- **Maple Grace** - Baby clothes and toys, items for bathrooms and bedrooms.
- [Mighty Nest](#) - Create a healthy home with these eco-friendly & non-toxic products.
- [Novica](#) - Handmade products from global artisans who benefit from fair prices, no binding contracts, and the freedom to make a success of their craft by building a sustainable business.
- [Orethic](#) - Organic diapers and baby clothes.
- [Project Repat](#) - Quilts made from T-shirts you love but no longer use. Check out the website for more details and to find out how to design your own quilt!

- [Serrv](#) - Beautiful hand-crafted items. This nonprofit fair trade organization is dedicated to lifting disadvantaged artisans, farmers, and their families out of poverty: "Behind every basket, tunic and necklace that we offer, you'll find a *story of positive change.*"
- [Ten Thousand Villages](#) - A fair-trade store with a variety of clothes and gift ideas
- [Uncommon Goods](#) - With a focus on sustainability and good design, artists worldwide offer household goods, clothing, jewelry, and more.
- [Under the Canopy](#) - if you want to splurge on some towels or bedding this is the place.
- [Viva Terra](#) - Recycled products including dishes, glassware, and vases

TECHNOLOGY

- [Grovemade](#) - Eco-conscious bamboo and wool iPhone & computer cases and stands cases made in Oregon
- [P3 International](#) - For the handy-person. Check out the programmable thermostat. These are available at most home improvement stores. According to the EPA, the average family would save approximately \$180.00 per year by installing a programmable thermostat in their home.
- [Real Goods](#) - Carries many sustainable items including solar ovens and solar chargers for your phone and other small electronic devices

FOR ANIMAL AND PLANT LOVERS

Supporting animal shelters is crucial, and your contributions help provide essential care to rescued animals year-round. If you have animal lovers in your circle, consider making a donation in their name to these shelters; it's a meaningful and heartfelt gift. For plant enthusiasts, there are fantastic sustainable options too, like biodegradable plant pots, eco-friendly gardening tools, and organic fertilizers that promote eco-conscious gardening practices. Additionally, supporting local nurseries and community gardens not only benefits plant lovers but also enhances biodiversity and sustains the local environment. By choosing these sustainable resources, you're not just making your loved ones happy but also fostering a greener and more compassionate world for both animals and plants alike. Your support truly makes a positive difference!

ANIMAL LOVERS

- [Animal Place](#) - Located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, this organization rescues farm animals.
- [Animal Rescue Resource Foundation](#) - "ARRF is an organization with years of combined experience in rescue, spay/neuter and support of people that are helping animals get a better deal. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to assist the rescue community, educate the public, and support low cost spay/neuter efforts."
- **NEW!** The title says it all! Read Earth.org's Article on "[The Environmental Impact of Pets: Working Towards Sustainable Pet Ownership](#)", In this article are links in the

Choose Eco-Conscious Pet Supplies section with suggestions for what to buy and the companies that have joined the [Pet Sustainability Coalition](#) to help make supporting your furry baby more eco-friendly.

- [Farm Sanctuary](#) - Rescued farm animals live out their lives in comfort while helping educate farm guests. Adopt an animal for a year; or [Adopt-A-Turkey](#) for a one time donation or you can sponsor the entire flock! Don't worry, they won't send a boxful of turkeys; once they receive your donation, the Farm Sanctuary sends pictures and fun facts about the birds. You can also pledge to not eat turkey during your Thanksgiving this year at the Adopt-a-Turkey page. And don't forget to check out the [Farm Sanctuary Shop](#) for some fun gift items.
- [Four Paws International](#) - is the global animal welfare organization for animals under direct human influence, (including war - see their <https://pawsofwar.org/ukraine-rescuesite>), which reveals suffering, rescues animals in need and protects them. Our vision is a world where humans treat animals with respect, empathy and understanding.
- [Gentle Barn Farm Sanctuary](#) - Rescues, rehabilitates, and gives sanctuary to abused animals. Children and other farm guests learn reverence for all life when they meet and learn the stories of the animals here. Adopt an animal for life!
- [Heifer International](#) This organization works around the world to strengthen local economies, end hunger and poverty and support local farmers.
- [Lions, Tigers, and Bears](#) - A big cat and exotic animal rescue. Know someone who loves lions, tigers, or bears? [Purchase](#) them a behind-the-scenes educational visit of the sanctuary!
- [Muttville Senior Dog Rescue](#) - Older dogs in shelters often do not find a home, which is where Muttville steps in. Feel free to donate or purchase some merch from their [store](#)!
- [National Parks Passes](#) - Plan your visit to one of the many parks in the country.
- [San Diego Bird Alliance](#) - "San Diego Bird Alliance (formerly known as San Diego Audubon) members are dedicated to protecting and appreciating our local wildlife and their habitats.:
- [\(San Diego\) Farm Animal Refuge](#) - "An agricultural animal rescue located in San Diego California. Our rescue focuses on abused, neglected, and unwanted farm animals"
- [San Diego Humane Society](#) - Offers multiple ways to [give](#), including donating items from their wish list, donating via Amazon Smile purchases, and joining the Constant Companion Monthly Giving Program.
- [Sulala Animal Rescue](#) - Sulala Society is the first and only animal rescue in the **Gaza Strip**. It was founded by Mr. Saeed Al Err, a man with great love for animals. Unable to bear seeing poor stray animals hungry in the street, he went on daily feeding tours for stray animals since the early 2000s.
- **New!!!** [Wingspan](#) - This is a board game where you build a bird sanctuary. Have fun!

PLANTS & GARDENING

- **New!!! [San Diego Seed Company](#)** a great place to purchase seeds for our microclimate. They also have gardening merchandise and even online gardening classes!
- **[Square Foot Gardening Foundation](#)** - Mel Bartholemew's definitive guide to saving 80% of the water, 80% of the cost, and 80% of the labor over traditional row gardening methods.
- **[Back to the Roots](#)** - A NorCal start-up offering a variety of products including an [Organic Mushroom Grow Kit](#).
- **[California's Own Native Landscape Design, Inc.](#)** - California native landscaping by Greg Rubin of Escondido. Consultations, design, installations, habitat restorations, etc. for the home or business.
- **[Las Pilitas](#)** – Best online resource for California native plants; mail order plants also available. Can purchase with pick-up, but not accepting walk-ins.
- **[Moosa Creek Nursery](#)** - California native plant nursery in Valley Center. Home gardeners can purchase plants via special orders with their [local retail store](#).
- **[Olivewood Gardens](#)** - A local garden and nutrition education center in National City. "Olivewood's purpose is to build healthy families and a healthy environment. We work with children, families and adults through hands-on classes in the garden and the kitchen." Cooking and gardening classes, volunteer, & donation opportunities available!
- **[Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden](#)** - The largest botanic garden dedicated to California native plants, promoting botany, conservation and horticulture to inspire, inform, and educate the public and scientific community about California's native flora.
- **[Seed Savers Exchange](#)** - For the gardener on the list, this exchange is dedicated to saving and sharing heirloom seeds.
- **[Spikenard Farm Honeybee Sanctuary](#)** - This Virginia farm raises money to educate people about the importance of honey bees. They provide classes, retreats, volunteer and intern/apprenticeship opportunities, as well as options to [donate](#) and a small [store](#).
- **[UC San Diego community gardens](#)** - UC San Diego has 5 campus gardens and one San Diego community garden all of which promote education and the growth of sustainable food and local produce.
- **[United Plant Saver](#)** - Protects native medicinal plants of the United States and Canada and their natural habitats while ensuring an abundant renewable supply of medicinal plants for generations to come.
- **[City Farmers Nursery](#)** - A San Diego garden center with organic plants and seeds (including native), hydroponics and pond supplies, koi, water plants. They also offer classes.
- **[The Rainforest Site](#)** - Take a few minutes to save the rainforest by simply clicking a button! Also, eleven other causes could use your clicks as well. Run by [GreaterGood.org](#), "a 501(c)(3) charitable organization that works to improve the health and well-being of people, pets, and the planet." Buy a free-trade or eco-friendly gift from their store or donate to support animals/ecosystems in need, such as bats, snow leopards, red pandas, otters, and more.
- **[Save the Redwoods League](#)** - "Since 1918, Save the Redwoods League has pioneered innovative, science-based forest-restoration work, educated thousands of schoolchildren

about the uniqueness and resilience of these wild marvels of nature, improved access to parkland and helped create parks and reserves that have touched the lives of millions of people from around the world."

- [Walter Andersen Nursery](#) - Carries many native plants including Moosa Creek and Native Sons. They also carry redwood bark mulch, essential for native plants, but hard to find!
- [Wild Willow Farm & Education Center](#) - A non-profit educational farm located in San Diego.

SECONDHAND TREASURES

THRIFT & RESALE SHOPS

Experience the thrill of the hunt! Wonderful one-of-a-kind items—vintage, secondhand, and even new—can be found in San Diego’s many area [thrift and resale shops](#). With their constantly changing inventory, these stores always have something new (to you).

Added bonus? Supporting a favorite charity; buying items at a fraction of their retail price; even decluttering if you choose to donate or trade in some things of your own. Enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that you are protecting the environment by taking time to find the perfect gift.

A sampling of stores can be found on [Yelp!](#) and [TheThriftShopper.com](#) serves up a comprehensive list of local thrifting options along with ratings.

Some staff favorites include:

- **New!!!** [Kitchens for Good](#) - they have amazing pre-owned kitchen items, need new to you plates, blender or a tablecloth? Then check this place out!
- [Amvets](#) - Quality goods at bargain prices. Be prepared for some hunting and browsing but treasures abound. Amvets is now offering a [virtual personal shopping](#) service.
- [Goodwill, San Diego](#) - Notes eco-stylist Danny Seo, "It's amazing what you can find at Goodwill. Vintage fabrics, wallpaper, and sweaters all make great wrapping—just look for rich textures." The inventory at Goodwill stores varies by neighborhood and clientele. Try a few to find your favorites. And don't miss Goodwill's bookstores... (As an added bonus, when you stop by Goodwill takes all of your electronics, working or not, for resale or recycling.) Goodwill varies from location to location. A particular staff favorite is the store in [Santee](#). The store in Pacific Beach is great for high-end gently used athletic clothes. Goodwill also offers an [online store](#).
- [thredUP](#) - An online option for secondhand clothing and accessories including designer labels. You can sell or donate items using their clean-out kit. (Donations are made to the charity of your choice).
- [Buffalo Exchange](#) - Hillcrest and Pacific Beach, buy, sell, enjoy. A staff favorite.

- [Flashbacks](#) - Another Hillcrest favorite. Stop by Buffalo Exchange and Blue Stocking while you're on the block.
- [Salvation Army Thrift Stores](#) Locations throughout San Diego. Shop for second hand goods and also donate your gently used items. This company is the largest non-government provider of social services in the United States.

VINTAGE & CONSIGNMENT

Curated, rather than simply collected, vintage and consignment shops offer treasures with a little less hunting. Save money and declutter by selling or trading in some of your own things for cash or store credit. These stores tend to cluster in neighborhoods that have great coffee shops, too. Try La Mesa, OB, or for a day south of the 8, check out the many vintage stores in Hillcrest, North Park, and South Park.

- [Best Used, Vintage & Consignment in San Diego](#)
- [Bad Madge](#) - This South Park treasure offers all things vintage, from furniture to Jewelry. Stop by here and enjoy the best in South Park coffee sipping, dining and shopping just steps away. Don't miss the chance to grab a cup and treat at [Communal Coffee](#) and browse the [Book Catapult](#) (an independent bookstore and local favorite with UC San Diego connections).
- [La Loupe Vintage](#) - An Adams Avenue gem dedicated to sustainability, creativity and quality vintage shopping.
- [Flashbacks](#) - Another Hillcrest favorite. Stop by [Buffalo Exchange](#) and [Bluestocking Books](#) while you're on the block.

THE GIFT OF MUSIC

There's a reason vinyl has made a comeback, and CDs never quite went away. For all sounds analog--new and used--take a spin down to your local thrift store or for a more curated collection, try a spot that specializes in music.

- **NEW!!!** [Cow Records](#) in Ocean Beach - some new and used vinyl, cds, dvds.
- **NEW!!!** [Re-Animated Records](#) - used vinyl, cds, dvds.
- [Best Record Stores in San Diego](#)
- [Lou's Records](#) in Encinitas - Touted as the Amoeba Records of San Diego, Lou's even offers up a Black Friday sale
- [M-Theory](#) in Mission Hills - Sweet tunes and knowledgeable, friendly staff
- [Vinyl Junkies](#) in South Park - An eclectic shop that sponsors regular vinyl swaps at the Casbah
- [Yelp a few more musical options](#)

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS

From mass market paperbacks to vintage volumes and collectors editions, secondhand bookshops have something for everyone at prices that are often better than those found online. Experience the joy of browsing actual shelves while supporting a local business.

- [Best Used Bookstores](#) (Yelp) in San Diego

Some staff favorites include:

- **NEW!!! [Pennywise Books](#)** in Pacific Beach. Has a nice selection of used books.
- **[Bluestocking Books](#)** in Hillcrest
- **[D.G. Wills Books](#)** in La Jolla
- **[Verbatim Books](#)** in North Park
- **[Mysterious Galaxy](#)** this favorite sci-fi and fantasy treasure has moved to 3555 Rosecrans but check out their website for amazing streaming events
- **[Maxwell's House of Books](#)** in La Mesa
- **[San Diego Public Libraries](#)** Most of the branches have Friends of the Library shops, where you can find great bargains on books and media. These shops are open for some of the open hours of the library branches, so check their hours. Books and media donations are accepted only during the shops' open hours. Here is the contact information for the Friends of the Central Library: sdfocl@gmail.com and 619-238-6655.

TOYS!

- **[Replay Toys](#)** in North Park has a wide selection of gently used, high quality children's toys and even has an etsy store offering [jewelry](#) upcycled from toys. They offer store credit for trade-ins.

NEIGHBORHOOD SHARING AND RE-GIFTING

Local communities come together online through a variety of networks to give, re-gift, and share time and things. Find some great gifts, find new homes for items you no longer need, and meet your neighbors.

- **[Buy Nothing Project](#)** - "Give where you live" while building community. This hyper-local Facebook group is the place where neighbors share great gifts with one another. Request what is offered, offer what you wish, ask for what you need. Buy Nothing is a great way to find cool gifts while meeting your neighbors. Some of the things below were given by neighbors to neighbors through Buy Nothing.
- **[San Diego Freecycle.org](#)** - A grassroots and entirely nonprofit movement of people who are giving (and getting) stuff for free in their own towns and thus keeping good stuff out of landfills

D.I.Y.

- **[30-Minute Rope Bowl](#)** - A quick-to-craft bowl that can be made from rope or cord.
- **[Lip Balm Locket](#)** - A dainty locket becomes a lip-balm holder in this three-ingredient project.
- **[Customized Coaster](#)** - Make a beautiful trivet or coaster using a ceramic tile and scrap-booking paper.

- [Flavored Lip Scrub](#) - A quick, easy, and indulgent gift that requires only three ingredients.
- [Natural Pre-Shave Oil](#) - Customize this soothing pre-shave oil with a favorite scent.
- [Dip-Dyed Ombre Canvas Bag](#) - A quick and chic accessory to make and give.
- [Lavender Sachets](#) - Sweet-smelling mini-sachets that can be made from fabric scraps and spare buttons.
- [Hand Stamped Wooden Utensils](#) - Wooden utensils customized using a stamp set make an attractive holiday (or hostess) gift.
- [No-Sew T-Shirt Produce Bag](#) - A handy shopping bag you can make from an old t-shirt!
- [Cookie Mix Gift Sack](#) - An easy-to-assemble cookie mix in a hand-stitched bag; a downloadable tag is included.
- [DIY Patterned Hair Clips](#) - Super-quick barrettes can be made in any pattern that strikes your fancy!
- [Dad's Hot Pepper Oil](#) - A welcome gift for the heat-seeking foodie.
- [Sugar Scrub Cubes](#) - Beautiful sugar-scrub cubes you can make in a baking dish.
- [Gardener's Hand Scrub](#) - This hand scrub for the gardener requires only three ingredients.
- [Pine Cone Fire Starters](#) - Pine cones and old candles (or crayons) form the basis of these festive fire-starters.
- [DIY Projects.com](#) - Crafts from A-Z and some great ornament ideas
- [eHowArtsAndCrafts](#) - A selection of YouTube videos showcasing a huge variety of craft projects.
- [45 Different Ways to Use Plastic Bottles in Sustainable DIY Crafts](#) - A gallery of beautiful objects created from plastic bottles.
- [16 Cereal Box Projects That Will Reinvent DIY](#)
- [19 Brilliant Ideas to Label the Plants in Your Garden](#)
- [Regrowing Vegetables from Scraps](#)
- [Easy 7-Ingredient DIY Natural Beauty Recipes](#)

IDEAS FOR WRAPPING GIFTS . . . "GREENLY"

REMEMBER TO REUSE AND RECYCLE!

- [24 DIY gift wrap ideas](#) - When you run out of wrapping paper or boxes, you can still find and reuse materials around the house to make your presents look pretty.
- [11 Low-Waste Gift Wrapping Alternatives to Buy or DIY](#) - Earth911 has some creative ideas for wrapping gifts, think fabric and old calendar pages.
- **NEW** [12 Eco-Friendly Wrapping Paper Alternatives](#): Treehugger challenges you to look around your house to learn how to wrap presents with less waste.
- **NEW** [7 Cute And Eco-Friendly Alternatives To Wrapping Paper](#): there are plenty of ways to wrap presents without creating a mountain of waste.

- According to [Stanford University's Waste Reduction, Recycling, Composting and Solid Waste Program](#) if every family wrapped just three gifts with reused materials we would save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields!!! That is huge, so see if you can find fun ways to wrap just three presents this holiday season.
- [Four Ways to Recycle—or Reuse—All That Holiday Wrapping Paper](#) - Leave it to Martha Stewart to have you wrapping gifts in materials as natural and exotic as birch bark. Some off-beat wrapping ideas sure to please crafters.
- **Make the wrap the gift!** There are beautiful food wraps and cloth that make great gift wrap.
 - [Beeswax Wrap](#)
 - [Furoshiki](#) is Japanese wrapping cloth and can be made from all types of fabrics including cotton, rayon, and silk. See some ways to wrap various gifts on the [Japanese Department of Environment's](#) site. There are also some [YouTube videos on Furoshiki wrapping techniques](#).
- [Herbal Dye Gift Bags](#)- Make gift bags using plant material
- [Life changing gift wrapping hacks](#) (video) Learn how to save paper when wrapping a present, how to turn a toilet paper roll into a pillow box, make your own ribbons, and turn a Pringles can into a gift box for unusually shaped presents.
- More [gift wrapping hacks](#)
- Make your own [paper gift bows](#) and [gift bags](#) using magazines or newspapers.
- **No time to DIY**, but want to find eco-friendly vendors with green products/services for wrapping? Try these:
 - [Wrappily](#)
 - [Oprah's Favorites](#)
- [Mother Earth News](#) - *Mother Earth News* offers up more wrapping inspiration: Zero waste gift wrap!

WHAT TO DO WITH "EXTRA STUFF"

- [Terracycle](#) - Check out the fun items that they have made from recycled materials, including ours.

CLEANING UP AFTER THE CELEBRATION

- [19 Clever Ways to Use Leftover Wrapping Paper](#)
- [Recycle gift cards and gift wrap](#)
- [Holiday Recycling Tips from the City of Chula Vista](#)
- [Recycle your tree](#)

FOR MORE INSPIRATION - BOOKS AND MAGS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

The following books and magazines are a great place to get ideas on how to reduce, reuse, and recycle! And this year we also have included some cookbooks. Purchase some for gifts or look for copies at your local library.

- **New!!! [Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults](#)** Indigenous wisdom, scientific knowledge and teaching of plants
- **New!!! [The Organically Clean Home](#)** learn how to make everything from oven cleaner to air fresheners with a few ingredients
- **New!!! [How to be a Climate Optimist](#)**
- **New!!! [Zero Waste for Families](#)** - Great tips for families and written by a local author.
- **New!!! List of [Sustainability Children Books](#)**
- **New!!! [The Little Book of Joy](#)** by Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- **[Cultural Survival Quarterly](#)** - Advancing Indigenous People's Rights - magazine
- **[Cooking the Native Way: Chia Cafe Collection](#)** - cookbook
- **[How Not To Diet](#)** by Michael Gregor
- **[Kumeyaay Ethnobotany: Shared Heritage of the Californias](#)** by Michael Wilken-Robertson
- **[Undo It](#)** - diet and fitness by Dean & Anne Ornish
- **[Eco-Friendly Crafting with Kids](#)** - Quirky, colorful, and fun projects for preschool kids and their parents to make together. Small children love crafting and creating, and it's educational as well as enjoyable. Crafting can help develop fine motor skills and teaches small children to follow instructions and work alongside someone else.
- **[Zero Waste Home: The Ultimate Guide to Simplifying Your Life by Reducing Your Waste](#)** – The author demystifies the process of going Zero Waste with hundreds of easy tips for sustainable living that even the busiest people can integrate.
- **[ReMake It!: Recycling Projects from the Stuff You Usually Scrap](#)** - To the green and crafty kid, vintage LP covers, empty tissue boxes, and broken umbrellas are not trash—they're treasures!
- **[Wear No Evil: How to Change the World with Your Wardrobe](#)** - Learn how to navigate fashion and ethics.
- **[Wardrobe Crisis: How We Went from Sunday Best to Fast Fashion](#)** -- Today, we rarely know the origins of the clothes hanging in our closets. This book explores the history and ethics behind what we wear.
- **[Sustainability Made Simple: Small Challenges for a Big Impact](#)** – This book introduces readers to sustainability and sustainable living and explores the relationship between everyday life and the intricate global environmental issues of today, including air and water pollution, deforestation, and climate change
- **[From the Ground Up: Environmental Racism and the Rise of the Environmental Justice Movement](#)** - Learn more about the Environmental Justice Movement. Long

story short, a lot of the people most affected by climate change are and will be those who contributed the least to it.

- [Life without Plastic](#) – Includes positive and practical ideas for safe, reusable, and affordable alternatives to plastic
- [The Humane Gardener](#) - Includes detailed chapters that address planting for wildlife by choosing native species; providing habitats that shelter baby animals, as well as birds, bees, and butterflies
- [Hand Made: The Modern Woman's Guide to Made-from-Scratch Living](#) - This book is a fascinating resource for gaining knowledge into how to self sustain by living off of the land.
- [We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast](#) - Jonathan Safran Foer explores the central global dilemma of our time in a surprising, deeply personal, and urgent new way. We have, he reveals, turned our planet into a farm for growing animal products, and the consequences are catastrophic. Only collective action will save our home and way of life. And it all starts with what we eat—and don't eat—for breakfast.
- [Farming While Black: Soul Fire Farm's Practical Guide To Liberation Of The Land](#) - The book describes the history of farming in the USA and the current racial divides that exist to this day.
- [The OMD Plan](#) - Eat one meal a day for the planet.
- [Our House is on Fire: Greta Thunberg's Call to Save the Planet](#)- About Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg
- [Pangolina](#) - Children's book by naturalist Jane Goodall
- [The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food](#) - this book takes a hard look at the way our food and food culture is connected with our environment and the complex food system that we all participate in everyday.
- [The Rise: Black Cooks and the Soul of American Food](#) - Cookbook
- [The Sioux Chef's Indigenous Kitchen](#) - Cookbook
- [VegNews](#) - The premier vegan lifestyle magazine, *VegNews* serves up the latest in meat-free news, food, travel, politics, and buzz. A fun and breezy read for anyone, vegan or not, this magazine has been named one of the 50 best lifestyle magazines by the *Chicago Tribune*.
- [Yes! Magazine](#) - A nonprofit, reader-supported, independent magazine that doesn't just report problems in the world, but also focuses on what people are doing to find solutions.
- [Zen and the Art of Saving the Planet](#) by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh
- [The Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet](#) by Leah Thomas
- [Field Notes from a Catastrophe: Man, Nature, and Climate Change](#) by Elizabeth Kolbert
- [This changes everything: capitalism vs. the climate](#) by Naomi Klein

HAPPY CONSCIOUS SHOPPING!