



Gift giving is one of life's great joys.

If it's inspiration you need, here is an array of gifts, from the latest in technology and cool things for kids to gadgets for the home and options for charitable giving, that are bound to be hits this holiday season. **By Alison Brownrigg**



Samsung Galaxy S III smartphone.



Roku's HD TV player.



iPhone 5 from Apple.



The Surface tablet from Microsoft.

Technology

There's no point in denying that our lives are full of technology. We rely on it for communication, marvel at its innovation and mine it for our entertainment choices. The following are some of the newest must-have gift items from the tech sector.

One of the coolest tech gifts of the year is the **iPhone 5**. Apple is touting it as "the thinnest, lightest, fastest iPhone ever." An iSight camera lets you shoot in panorama; new headphones are more comfortable; and a 4-inch Retina display, at 326 pixels per inch, makes seeing believing (from \$199; www.apple.com). A strong competitor to the iPhone is the **Samsung Galaxy S III**, which runs on the Android software platform. The Galaxy offers ShareShot, a feature that allows users to share their photos instantly, and AllShare, a new technology in which users access and share any file on their phone (from \$149.99; www.samsung.com).

According to *Seattle Times* technology columnist Brier Dudley, there will be plenty of tablets under the tree this year, especially since there are more options in the \$200 range, such as **Google's Nexus** (\$199; www.play.google.com) and **Amazon's Kindle Fire** (\$199; www.kindle.amazon.com).

Microsoft is also planning to release two versions of its colorful new **Surface**

tablet this fall, which is expected to start at about \$499 (www.microsoft.com). Still, when talking tablets, the conversation has to center on the iPad. **Apple's iPad 2**, which was first released in 2011, starts at under \$400. The most recent focus has been on the third-generation iPad, which offers a crisper display, a 5-megapixel iSight camera and faster download speeds (starting at \$499; www.apple.com).

"Kids and gamers may also be excited about Nintendo's new **Wii U** console (\$130; www.nintendo.com)," Dudley says. "Out this month, [the Wii U] comes with its own wireless tablet for controlling games and watching video."

Streaming high-definition players for television are also making a splash in a big way in 2012, as more and more products allow consumers to surf the Web, as well as download movies and content on their TVs. The best-known product is the **Apple TV** (\$99; www.apple.com), which enables the viewer to access the content from all of the company's other devices, as well as from NetFlix and Hulu Plus, in one convenient spot. **Roku** (\$49.99; www.roku.com) weighs in with access to more than 100,000 titles from Amazon Instant Video, including new releases fresh from the big screen and premium content from HBO and other channels, as well as sports pro-

gramming and news from NBC and *The Wall Street Journal*.

Netgear's NeoTV Pro (\$69.99; www.netgear.com) is challenging the competition with the addition of Intel's Wireless Display (WiDi) technology, which allows users to see their laptop display on the TV, conveniently accessed through a high-end touch-screen application that turns a smartphone into a remote control.

Videogame users have grown accustomed to gesture-based control systems, and now Leap is bringing the same technology to your computer. **Leap** (\$70; www.leapmotion.com) is going beyond the touch screen, forging the way for three-dimensional computer navigation that tracks even the slightest natural hand and finger motions. Reliable, sensitive and accurate, Leap makes a mouse obsolete and is just about the size of a flash drive.

If the sound of all this technology is too much for you, try the new **Phiaton** noise-cancellation earphones, which features Bluetooth 3.0 (\$159; www.phiaton.com). These compact buds block out 95 percent of background noise and allow the wearer to listen and control the volume of the music.

Bring the party with you with the **Etón Rukus Solar** portable Bluetooth speakers (\$150; www.etoncorp.com), with a solar panel so efficient that users can listen to



Netgear's NeoTV.



Kindle Fire from Amazon.com.



Apple's iPad.



Phiaton earphones.



Pigeon Toe Ceramics' Sugar and Cream Set.



Ladies & Gentlemen's stainless Superior Servers.



Malie Organic's Mango Nectar Collection.



Rosanna's La Vie Boho Dipping Dishes.



Linge ballet slippers.



Alchemy Goods' Mercer handbag and the Eastlake iPad sleeve.



Columbia Sportswear's Women's Powerfly Down Jacket.



Metamorphic Gear's messenger bags.

music all day long. The small, portable player offers good sound quality and also uses AA batteries and an AC adapter for recharging on those cloudy days.

With all these devices comes the need to stay charged. From the practical to the sublime, the newest generation of chargers helps users to stay connected virtually anytime and anywhere. Compatible with more than 4,500 gadgets, the **IDAPT i1 Eco charger** (\$32.99; www.idaptweb.com) has a USB cord, wall plug, car adapter and interchangeable tips for customization. Made from recyclable materials, the i1 Eco can charge two devices at once and has an auto-off system to conserve electricity.

Perhaps the most important gift of all for the smartphone user on your holiday gift radar is a waterproofing treatment from **Liquipel** (\$59; www.liquipel.com). The award-winning product protects the device—inside and out—without affecting its performance.

For those seeking greater safety while on the road, the auto-communications company OnStar is offering the **FMV**. The name is an acronym meaning “For My Vehicle” (\$99.99 and \$18.95 a month; www.onstar.com). OnStar supplies a new rearview mirror with buttons that connect the driver to a series of safety features, such as GPS navigation, stolen-vehicle location, links to emergency services and automatic crash assistance.

For the person on your list who likes to venture into nature and out of cellphone range, a pair of Motorola **Talkabout MS350R** two-way radios (\$99.99; www.motorola.com) is the perfect way to safely stay connected. With a range of up to 35 miles, these completely waterproof walkie-talkies float, have LED flashlights and hands-free capability, and come connected to seven NOAA weather channels for up-to-the-minute alerts and information.

Travel in Style

The following gifts are aimed at making the traveling experience easier, more comfortable and more enjoyable.

Start with a good piece of luggage from the sleek **Lipault Paris** foldable-luggage collection (from \$189; www.lipault-us.com). Lightweight and chic, these colorful suitcases can be completely folded into a 4-inch depth for storage. **Filson's** water-resistant **Oil Finish Duffle Bag** (\$105; www.filson.com) was designed for hauling field gear, but is perfect for the commute, as well. The bag is made from tin cloth, which is a tough oil-finished cotton fabric that wears well, handles the elements, lasts a long time and looks rugged.

Also in the rugged and great-looking category are eco-friendly messenger bags from **Metamorphic Gear** and **Alchemy Goods**. Both companies make their products out of used sails, truck tarps and inner

tubes, which were traditionally sent to landfills. Metamorphic Gear's bags are made with more than 75 percent recycled materials (\$130; www.metamorphicegear.com). Well-placed pockets help make these bags perfect for work and play. Alchemy Goods' Pike Messenger Bags (\$168; www.alchemygoods.com) are constructed from 67 percent recycled materials and boast reflective tape for high visibility in the dark. Both bags hold 15-inch laptops and are lightweight and durable.

Stylish friends on your list will thank you for a makeup bag, Dopp kit, shoe bag or travel bag from **Hudson + Bleecker** (from \$24; www.hudsonandbleecker.com), a New York-based travel-goods company which is known for intersecting style and function with essential products in hip, geometric-patterned fabrics.

Traveling in comfort is probably more important than traveling in style, but with a pair of **Linge ballet slippers** (\$59; www.lingshoes.com), you can have both. These great-looking slippers are styled after classic ballet shoes, with a tad more padding, and come in a variety of vibrant shades. Your savvy girlfriends will appreciate having them in their bags to slip on after the heels come off.

Versatile, lightweight and easily packed, Columbia Sportswear's **Men's** and **Women's Powerfly Down Jackets**, with thermal-reflective Omni-Heat lining, are warm and



The interactive toy Furby from Hasbro.



Eitech's Deluxe Space Needle Construction Set.



Melissa & Doug's Trunki case.



Glob ornament kit.



Lego's Hobbit building set.



Stonz booties.



Kids tractor T-shirt from Shirts That Go.



Radio Flyer's Build-A-Wagon.



The "Little Seed" CD.



Mozo slip-resistant shoes.



Back to the Roots' mushroom garden box.



Gray & Smoked Salt Caramels from Fran's Chocolates.



The iGrill meat thermometer.



Jacobsen Salt Co.'s slide tin.

can fit into a small pouch. The coats come in seven great colors, but basic black goes with everything and keeps the wearer looking cool while staying warm (\$220; www.columbia.com). Pair the jacket with **Mountain Monster gloves** that include an Outdry membrane and Omni-Heat technology to keep hands dry and toasty (\$150; www.columbia.com).

Practicality is a must for the serious traveler, which is what makes **ExOfficio's Give-N-Go underwear** so ingenious (from \$18; www.exofficio.com). Easily washed in the sink, these undergarments dry in a snap and feature antimicrobial protection.

Traveling with little ones can sometimes be challenging. Giving parents on your list gifts that will keep the children busy is always welcome.

Get kiddos excited about traveling with their very own pint-size wheeled suitcase. The **Trunki** by Melissa & Doug is an adorable, lightweight and sturdy carry-on-size suitcase that kids can pull themselves or ride on while being pulled. Stabilizers prevent any tumbles, and the bright colors mean users will never get lost in the crowd (\$39.99; www.melissaanddoug.com).

The new **TrayKit**, a carry-on backpack and play tray, can be filled with hours of activities. It straps on to seatback tables, offering stability for the young ones (\$39.95; www.onestepahead.com).

A Happy Home

These gifts for the home are useful, elegant and fun enough that they may get you invited over to enjoy them with the lucky recipient.

Scandinavian-influenced tea towels, place mats and napkins from **Nell & Mary** (from \$19; www.nellandmary.com); souped-up **Superior Servers** dipped in a colorful polymer coating from Ladies & Gentlemen Studio (\$30; www.ladiesandgentlemenstudio.com); and an adorable white ceramic **Sugar and Cream Set** from Portland's Pigeon Toe Ceramics (\$48; www.pigeontoceramics.com) are among the items being created by Northwest designers. Another fun product for the home is the **Hex Opener**, a bottle opener made from a solid brass hex bar from Seattle's Iacoli & McAllister (\$48; www.iacoliandmcallister.com). For a splurge, head to Design Within Reach and snap up

a **Bound Mirror** (\$1,295; www.dwr.com), designed by Bainbridge Island, Washington's dynamic design duo Chelsea Green and James Minola.

Set a beautiful holiday table—and help create new traditions—with gorgeous tableware from Rosanna. The ever popular **La Vie Boho Dipping Dishes** are festive and versatile, making them the perfect choice for any decor (a set of six dessert dishes is \$56; www.rosannainc.com).

Fragrant gifts are always a hit. You can't go wrong with anything from Hawai'i's **Malie Organics**. Bring home the tropics with luxe lotions, soaps, perfumes, room sprays and candles imbued with the floral scents of paradise, such as plumeria, orchid and pīkake (beginning at \$18; www.malie.com). Or give it all in one product, with an **Objects With Purpose candle** (\$42; www.objectswithpurpose.com). Created with a vegan and organic blend of coconut, shea and apricot butters, and scented with essential oils, these three-wicked candles are beautifully and thoughtfully packaged, and make a sweet gift to enjoy with that someone special.

Cozy up on a cold winter night under a



PACT's all-stripe classic sock bundles.



Guatemalan Threads shoes from Nest.



Talavera tiles from Community Trails Artisan Marketplace.

silk-fiber-filled blanket from **Mulberry West**. Popular in tropical climates, silk-floss-filled comforters are hypoallergenic, pest-resistant and naturally regulate body temperature, wicking away moisture and providing warmth (beginning at \$99; www.mulberrywest.net).

Wooden bowls from The Great Alaskan Bowl Company, especially the nesting Family Tree Bowl sets (from \$199; www.woodbowl.com) carved from the same piece of wood, make excellent gifts. Wooden bowls create a warm feeling in the kitchen and tend to become heirlooms—especially ones as beautiful as these.

Speaking of heirlooms, a **hand-knit stole** from Oomingmak (\$375; www.qiviut.com), Alaska's original musk-ox-knitters' cooperative, makes a beautiful gift. Made from Qiviut, the underwool of the Arctic musk ox, the yarn is soft, warm and exceptionally fine. Recipients will appreciate the intricacy and beauty of these lovingly hand-knit products.

Food and Wine

Julia Child, who would have turned 100 this year, advised people to “find something you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it.” For those

passionate about food, the following gifts are bound to hold their interest.

Cooks love gadgets, especially an interesting knife loaded with history and utility. An **ulu knife** (from \$13.95; www.theulufactory.com), with its rounded blade and wooden handle, is a great choice for any kitchen. Alaska's indigenous people used an early form of this popular knife as far back as 3,000 years ago.

A more whimsical gift is the **Ice Cream Ball** by YayLabs! (\$29.99; www.industrialrev.com). This fun way to make ice cream requires no electricity. Pour ice and rock salt into a chamber on one side of the brightly colored ball and the other ingredients into a chamber on the other side, then toss it, pass it and roll the ball around. In 20 minutes ice cream can be served.

The **iGrill** meat thermometer is where food and technology meet. This app-enabled wireless Bluetooth thermometer allows the chef to keep track of food temperatures from up to 200 feet away. Download the app for free, stick the probe in the meat, and let the iGrill do the rest (\$79.99; www.igrillinc.com).

For chefs in need of a special pair of kitchen or house loafers, get a pair of **Mozo Shoes**. Designed by famous chefs,



The Make-A-Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to kids with life-threatening medical conditions, sent 6-year-old Madelyn (at left) and her sister, Sophia, to a dude ranch.

such as Aarón Sánchez, Marcus Samuelsson and Chris Cosentino, these shoes are slip-resistant, comfortable and fun (\$74.95; www.mozoshoes.com).

The science fiction fan in your life will like the silly gifts at the online store Think Geek, including a **Death Star tea infuser** along with some loose leaf **Earl Grey Star Trek tea** and a **Han Solo in Carbonite ice cube tray** (infuser is \$19.99, tea \$14.99, and ice tray \$9.99; www.thinkgeek.com).

The gardener on your list will enjoy the **Back to the Roots** edible-mushroom kit (\$19.95; www.backtotheroots.com). Each kit produces at least two crops of pearl oyster mushrooms from soil that is 100 percent recycled coffee beans. Put the kit in a gift basket with **Jacobsen Salt Co.'s artisanal sea salt**, hand-harvested from the Oregon Coast (from \$3.50; www.jacobsensalt.com) and a box of wonderful chocolates from **Coastal Mist** (from \$17; www.coastalmist.com). This Bandon, Oregon, business makes chocolates on par with any producer.

Speaking of top chocolatiers, **Fran's Chocolates**, a Seattle institution and a favorite of President Barack Obama's, is turning 30 this year. Celebrate Fran Bigelow's success with a box of Gray & Smoked Salt Caramels, an Almond Gold Bar or some dark chocolate truffles. Whatever combination you choose, someone's



The Nike+ FuelBand.

Topo Outfit fishing kit.



The Golfranger GX3i.



Basil's bike baskets.



Handmade Merrimack canoes.



Capsul's card cases.



Online gift cards from Wrapp.

going to be very happy to receive this gift (from \$20; www.franschocolates.com).

Child's Play

Kids wait all year for the holidays, making their lists and checking them twice. A present from one of the following companies will reward the youngsters for their yearlong efforts to be nice.

Many experts say one of this year's top toys will be **Furby**. Hasbro's furry little



The Dream Racing Experience in Las Vegas.

friend from the late 1990s is back, and this time the interactive toy develops a mind of its own as you train it. Furby speaks both Furbish and English. A free downloadable app helps you translate and communicate with your new little friend, as well as prepare its free make-believe meals (\$59.99; www.toysrus.com).

Tablets can be great teaching tools, and LeapFrog's newest kid-centric options, the **LeapPad2** and **Leapster GS**, are no exception. A durable frame, high-resolution camera, 4 gigabytes of memory and improved battery life, along with writing, art and music apps, make for a reliable and fun

learning experience (\$69.99 and \$99.99, respectively; www.toysrus.com).

A more old-fashioned toy that is gaining popularity is the **Kendama**. Translated as "sword ball," it is a challenging and fun twist on the classic stick-and-ball toy from yesteryear. Players aim to get the round ball—attached to the stick with a string—into any of three cups or onto rounded spikes on the handle. Thousands of tricks and variations are possible, and there's even a Kendama Pro Team for serious devotees (\$19.99; www.kendamausa.com).

The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey, the long-awaited prequel to the wildly popular *Lord of the Rings* movies, is coming out in December, and **Lego** is releasing its own **Unexpected Journey collection** just in time for kids to create their own Shire with a sweet Hobbit Hole populated by Bilbo Baggins and visited by Gandalf the Grey (\$34.99; www.lego.com).

A puzzle is a project that the whole family can do together. Seattle's **Artifact Puzzles** applies high-quality prints of fine

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TOBOGGAN DESIGN INC.; DREAM RACING; WRAPP



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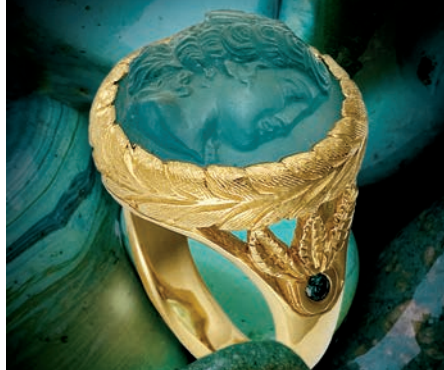
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art to eco-friendly plywood and cuts them into puzzles with intricate and interestingly shaped pieces, adding to the allure and the challenge (\$18; www.artifactpuzzles.com).

Who doesn't love a Radio Flyer? The classic little red wagon is celebrating its 95th birthday this year with **Build-A-Wagon**. Customize a wagon with some of the more than 150 tricked-out combinations available, including original or all-terrain tires, storage, umbrellas, seat cushions and more (\$105; www.radioflyer.com).

Outfit the tiniest tykes on your list in style and comfort with T-shirts from **Lately Lily** and **Shirts That Go**. Little ladies will love Lily, a stylish lass who skips around the globe with her best friend, Zeborah. Not only are Lately Lily T-shirts adorable, but they open up the whole world for the wearer with pictures and maps from other countries (\$28; www.latelylily.com).

Real go-getters will love Shirts That Go. Adorned with images of almost anything that can be driven, from tractors to excavators to Army tanks, these shirts are bound to become instant favorites with the toddler set (\$16.99; www.shirtsthatgo.com).

Know an outdoorsy family that loves to hike with their baby in a backpack? Get them a pair of **Stonz Booties** as a gift and watch their faces light up. Stonz fit over the shoes or boots that baby is wearing, stay on with string pulls and keep feet warm, dry and protected (\$39.99; www.stonzwear.com).

All kids are superheroes in someone's eyes—let the world know it with **Shwings**, lace-on multicolored fabric wings that attach to a pair of shoes. These wings ratchet up the cool factor (\$7; www.shwingsonline.com).

The iconic Space Needle in Seattle turned 50 this year. Eitech America is commemorating the occasion by creating a **Deluxe Space Needle Construction Set**, complete with more than 740 interconnecting steel pieces. The structure stands 2 feet tall and comes with all the necessary tools and instructions. A smaller, 90-piece set, is also available (\$199 and \$39.99, respectively; www.eitechamerica.com).

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The beloved music of Woody Guthrie comes to life with musician Elizabeth Mitchell's tribute CD, **"Little Seed."** It is full of Guthrie's children's songs and is a gift to all who hear them. The year 2012 was busy for Mitchell, who also released **"Blue Clouds,"** a delightful and loving CD that puts a contemporary spin on traditional folk songs (\$11.98; www.folkways.si.edu).

Preschoolers have fallen in love with Disney Junior's **Doc McStuffins**, a smart, young African-American girl who dreams of being a doctor and practices by caring for her stuffed animals and toys in her home clinic. The interactive Doc McStuffins doll comes with a special sparkling pink stethoscope (\$39.99; www.toysrus.com).

Good Sport

You will win plenty of praise from the sports fan on your list with the following roster of gifts.

Outfit the baseball fan in your life with a classic vintage baseball shirt from **Ebbets Field Flannels**, which offers an assortment of jerseys that are identical to the originals in fabric and style (\$129; www.ebbets.com). Baseball players young and old will love a membership to **Club Diamond Nation**, a virtual baseball and softball academy that features instructional videos on techniques, tips and tricks of the trade from top coaches and professional players (free for basic, \$4.95 per month for premium; www.clubdiamondnation.com).

The **Topo Outfit** grab-and-go fly-fishing kit from Redington is a great gift for a beginning angler. Complete with a fly rod, a reel, nippers, a fly box and more, including a how-to guide, this lightweight kit is perfect for camping and backpacking (\$199.95; www.redington.com). For the complete outdoors package, tuck the Topo into a canoe from **Merrimack**, which this past summer released its first new line of canoes in 18 years. Made from eco-friendly

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The logo for Copper River Seafoods is a blue shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the words "COPPER RIVER" are written in a white, serif font, with "SEAFOODS" in a smaller font below it. In the center is a detailed illustration of a fish, likely a salmon, jumping out of the water. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text "WILD SEAFOOD from ALASKA" in a blue, serif font.

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Alaskan Crab, Smoked Salmon and More!

A close-up photograph of a white plate featuring several large, cooked Alaskan crab legs. The crab legs are orange and white, with some showing the characteristic ridges. They are garnished with bright yellow lemon wedges and fresh green beans. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a natural setting.

The logo for Copper River Seafoods is a blue shield-shaped emblem. At the top, the words "COPPER RIVER" are written in a white, serif font, with "SEAFOODS" in a smaller font below it. In the center is a detailed illustration of a fish, likely a salmon, swimming to the left. At the bottom, a white banner contains the text "WILD SEAFOOD from ALASKA" in a blue, serif font.

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woods, Merrimack canoes are built by hand in Tennessee and are guaranteed for life. You'll have to get creative when wrapping this present (\$3,100; www.merrimackcanoes.com).

No round of golf is complete without a gadget to gauge the distance to the pin. There are a number of products to fit this need, including the **I'm Caddie** Golf GPS. With a library of nearly 50,000 courses, the I'm Caddie uses a recorded voice to tell you the accurate distance to the center of the green, all with the touch of a button. The I'm Caddie clips onto a visor or the bill of a hat, leaving hands free (\$129.99; www.iamcaddieusa.com). There is also the **GX line of Rangefinders** from Leupold. These devices use an infrared laser for accurate aim to within 6 inches of the target (\$374.95; www.leupold.com).

Thomas Dean has a line of men's shirts that are for those who want to support their favorite college teams and look good doing it. Created by two former Nordstrom employees, **Thomas Dean's TD Collegiate line** is NCAA licensed and

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A collage of images for McKinnon Furniture. The top section features a large image of a dining table and chairs, and a smaller image of a coffee cup on a saucer with the McKinnon Furniture logo. The middle section has a large red 'RELAXED STYLE' header. The bottom section includes a small image of the storefront, contact information, and a single wooden chair.

HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE • MADE IN SEATTLE

Two images of dining tables and chairs. The left image shows a dark wood table with chairs. The right image shows a lighter wood table with yellow upholstered chairs and a coffee cup on a saucer with the McKinnon Furniture logo.

RELAXED STYLE

McKINNON FURNITURE USES SELECT HARDWOODS FROM REPLENISHABLE, NON-ENDANGERED SOURCES. WE MAKE OUR CUSTOM WOOD FURNISHINGS USING TRADITIONAL METHODS. AND WE MAKE OUR FURNITURE RIGHT HERE IN SEATTLE.

206.622.6474

www.McKINNONFURNITURE.com
1201 WESTERN AVE @ SENECA ST

A single wooden chair.

OPEN EVERY DAY
SEATTLE, WA

Exterior view of the McKinnon Furniture store.



A collage of images for McKinnon Furniture. The top section features a large image of a dining table and chairs, and a smaller image of a coffee cup with the McKinnon logo. The bottom section includes a small image of the storefront, the text 'RELAXED STYLE', and contact information.

HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE • MADE IN SEATTLE

A photograph of a dining table and chairs. The table is made of dark wood and has a dark blue tablecloth. There are several chairs with light-colored wood frames and dark blue upholstered seats. A large black vase with dried flowers is on the table.

A photograph of a dining table and chairs. The table is made of dark wood and has a dark blue tablecloth. There are several chairs with light-colored wood frames and dark blue upholstered seats. A large black vase with dried flowers is on the table. In the foreground, there is a large coffee cup with a logo that says "HANDCRAFTED SINCE 1984 MCKINNON FURNITURE SEATTLE, ST".

RELAXED STYLE

MCKINNON FURNITURE USES SELECT HARDWOODS FROM REPLENISHABLE, NON-ENDANGERED SOURCES. WE MAKE OUR CUSTOM WOOD FURNISHINGS USING TRADITIONAL METHODS. AND WE MAKE OUR FURNITURE RIGHT HERE IN SEATTLE.

206.622.6474

www.McKINNONFURNITURE.com
1201 WESTERN AVE @ SENECA ST

A photograph of a wooden chair. The chair is made of dark wood and has a simple, clean design. It has a high back and four legs.

OPEN EVERY DAY
SEATTLE, WA

A photograph of a storefront. The storefront is made of dark wood and has large windows. There are several signs on the storefront, including one that says "MCKINNON FURNITURE".

A collage of images for McKinnon Furniture. The top section features a large image of a dining table and chairs, and a smaller image of a coffee cup with the McKinnon logo. The bottom section includes a small image of the storefront, the text 'RELAXED STYLE', and contact information.

HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE • MADE IN SEATTLE

A photograph of a dining table and chairs. The table is made of dark wood and has a dark blue tablecloth. There are several chairs with light-colored wood frames and dark blue upholstered seats. A large black vase with dried flowers is on the table.

A photograph of a dining table and chairs. The table is made of dark wood and has a dark blue tablecloth. There are several chairs with light-colored wood frames and dark blue upholstered seats. A large black vase with dried flowers is on the table. In the foreground, there is a large coffee cup on a saucer. The cup has the McKinnon logo on it, which reads 'HANDCRAFTED SINCE 1994 MCKINNON FURNITURE SEATTLE, ST'.

RELAXED STYLE

MCKINNON FURNITURE USES SELECT HARDWOODS FROM REPLENISHABLE, NON-ENDANGERED SOURCES. WE MAKE OUR CUSTOM WOOD FURNISHINGS USING TRADITIONAL METHODS. AND WE MAKE OUR FURNITURE RIGHT HERE IN SEATTLE.

206.622.6474

www.McKINNONFURNITURE.com
1201 WESTERN AVE @ SENECA ST

A photograph of a wooden chair. The chair has a simple, clean design with a high back and a solid seat. It is made of dark wood.

OPEN EVERY DAY
SEATTLE, WA

A photograph of a storefront. The building is made of brick and has large windows. The windows are lit up, and there are some plants in front of the building.

HANDCRAFTED FURNITURE • MADE IN SEATTLE

RELAXED STYLE

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Charity

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Alaska Airlines makes it easy to help through the **Charity Miles Program**. Mileage Plan members can support a variety of charitable organizations, including disaster relief, cancer research and Earth-friendly causes, just by donating miles (www.alaskaair.com).

The **Make-A-Wish Foundation** is the nation's largest wish-granting organization. Make-A-Wish has been granting wishes for kids with life-threatening medical conditions since 1980. Today, the foundation grants a wish every 38 minutes. Help support the Make-A-Wish cause by visiting their website and donating to the organization (www.wish.org).

Be inspired by a different group of Olympic athletes this holiday season when you support the **Special Olympics**. The organization was formed to provide sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities (www.specialolympics.org).

Nest allows you to buy unique textiles and jewelry while also supporting artisans around the world. The nonprofit organization is in 10 countries and works with about 2,000 artisans, providing training, business development and micro-loans. Nest also provides a website that links to retailers that sell the wares (www.buildanest.org). Other organizations that provide support for artisans include **Krochet Kids**, which employs women in Northern Uganda and Peru to make their line of stylish crocheted hats and other accessories (from \$13.95; www.krochetkids.org).

PACT is an eco-friendly company that creates socks, underwear and other clothing. Proceeds from their Holiday 2012 Collection will buy three industrial sewing machines for The Empowerment Project, an organization that employs homeless women in Detroit who make coats that turn into sleeping sacks for people who live on the street (\$24.99 for a three-pack of socks; www.wearpact.com).

The **Community Trails Artisan Marketplace** offers handcrafted, artisan-made,



Smoked Yukon River Keta Products



Old Style Smoked Yukon Keta



Yukon Keta Candy



Garlic Pepper Yukon Keta



Traditional Yukon Keta Strips

Kwik'pak Fisheries is proud to present a sustainable, traceable product that is unique to Alaska's Yukon River. Yukon Keta salmon has the highest oil content and Omega-3s of any Keta Salmon, whether fresh, frozen or smoked. Product is shipped frozen by FedEx. Order online at:

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colorful Talavera tiles, and donates 100 percent of the proceeds to charity, and matches whatever their employees donate to a nonprofit, dollar-for-dollar. Talavera tiles are perfect as outdoor accents and make great coasters (from \$15.50; www.puretalavera.com).

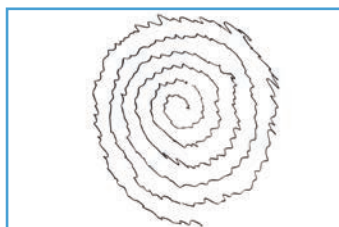
The **Ben Towne Foundation** is looking for volunteers to sponsor coin drives to raise money for research into pediatric cancer, the leading cause of death by disease among American children. Ben was 3 years old when he passed away from cancer in 2008. His family started the foundation as a way to fund research and help stop such tragedies from happening again (www.bentownefoundation.org).

After 9-year-old Rachel Beckwith died in a Seattle traffic accident in 2011, her parents turned their tragedy into hope for others by continuing Rachel's campaign through **Charity: Water**, a nonprofit that gives 100 percent of the money donated to provide clean drinking water to people in underdeveloped countries. Since Rachel's passing, contributions to her campaign have reached nearly \$1.27 million, enough money to supply clean water to more than

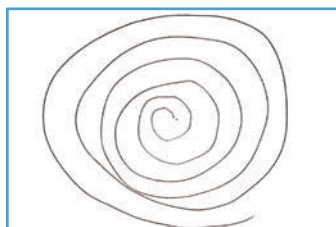
Does Your Hand Shake When You...

Drink a glass of water? Write a note? Dial a phone number?

If so, you may be suffering from Essential Tremor. Dr. Ronald Young from the Swedish Radiosurgery Center has successfully treated over 1,000 patients — more than any other physician worldwide — using Gamma Knife, a non-surgical approach to treat Essential Tremor.



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SMALL PACKAGES

Sometimes the best things do come in small packages—such as a little blue box from **Tiffany & Co.** This year marks the iconic jeweler's 175th anniversary, and with it comes the Rubedo metal collection. It's hard to pick just one thing, but a Tiffany 1837 Interlocking Circles Pendant in Rubedo (\$1,250; www.tiffany.com) is a stunner. For just the right scent to go with such exquisite jewelry, try the **Parfumerie Nasreen**, located in Seattle's Alexis Hotel (prices vary, www.parfumerienasreen.com). Owner Nasreen Rehmat is known for having the ability to match the perfect fragrance to the individual. The stocking-worthy **Capsul Case**, which comes in six colors (\$8.95; www.capsulcase.com), holds up to 12 credit cards, 50 business cards or however many gift cards you receive from **Wrapp**, an app that sends online gift cards as presents (www.wrapp.com).



"There's a proper role for government to play.
But it's also critical that we not
overregulate, so the best ideas
and entrepreneurial spirit can flourish.
That's what built our country."

Mark Anderson, CEO/President
Anderson Hay & Grain Co., Inc., Ellensburg

Our State's Business Climate is Tough. But you can do something about it.

All across Washington state, employers and business owners are adjusting to the new economy, eagerly anticipating a recovery. They're doing their fair share by cutting costs, innovating — even retooling — to retain and create jobs.

Any hope of a sustained recovery rests with private sector job growth — a critical piece to solving our state's significant, recurring budget woes.

Lawmakers must take particular care not to jeopardize a restart of our economy by piling additional tax and regulatory costs on employers. Policymakers should instead be considering incentives that will help retain and recruit employers and jobs.

That's why AWB is encouraging greater support for private employers and job creation across the state.

We can't control the ups and downs of our economy. But we can promote a more business-friendly climate in Washington state.



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63,000 people. Keep up the good work with **Rachel for Rwanda**, a new campaign through Charity: Water (www.mycharity-water.org).

Since 1992, the **Elton John AIDS Foundation** has raised more than \$275 million for AIDS projects in 55 countries. Contribute to the cause by donating to the foundation through its website, www.ejaf.org. You can also buy **Sir Elton John's Holiday Six-Pack Votive Set** from Nest Fragrances. With each purchase, 20 percent of the proceeds benefits the foundation (\$38.00; www.nestfragrances.com).

Charity Wicks is a company that collaborates with nonprofits to create private-label candles. About \$6, or about 30 percent, from the sale of each candle goes to the nonprofit chosen by the buyer (\$19.99; www.charitywicks.com).

Experiences

Forgo a material gift this year and give an experience the recipient won't soon forget.

Race like the pros with **The Dream Racing Experience** in Las Vegas, which includes five laps around a real racetrack in a Ferrari F430 GT. This ultimate driving experience begins with a detailed training video, one-on-one 3-D simulator instruction and track laps with the authentic racing suit and helmet (\$499; www.dreamracing.com). Other driving experiences include the **NASCAR Racing Experience** (\$129; www.nascarracingexperience.com) and a stock car ride from **Cloud 9 Living** (\$109; www.cloud9living.com).

Those looking for a more sedate experiential gift might try Seattle's only eating tour on wheels from **White Moustache Urban Adventure Co.** You can pick a theme or have the guide decide as White Moustache takes you to four different places in at least two hours (\$200 for two people; www.whitemoustache.com).

There are few things more satisfying than a heartfelt and well-chosen present. This year's collection of items is bound to help you find that perfect gift, charity or experience. Happy Holidays! ▲

Alison Brownrigg is a Seattle writer specializing in the art of shopping.



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