

2020 Fair Trade, Holiday Ideas, & Gift Giving Guide from the UC San Diego Library Sustainability Committee



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.

Here are suggestions for gifts that support local small businesses and artisans, as well as a carefully curated list of places to find fair-trade, sustainable items from around the globe.

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.

2020 has been a year like no other. In updating this guide, we've highlighted BIPOC-owned small businesses, added some new offerings, and carefully checked to ensure that the listed places and spaces are open, but do call ahead to ensure hours and availability.

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.

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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
- [Summers Past Farms](#) - Herb garden, gift shop, nursery, and classes

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:

- **Balboa Park** ([Annual pass](#) or [Explorer pass](#)) - 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

- [Border Angels](#) - A San Diego-based non-profit 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. **DONATE TO SAVE THE FARM!** Wild Willow has been hit hard by COVID-19. Without our workshops, classes & field trips, we have lost 2/3 of our income.

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

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

- [Best of Vegan in San Diego 2018](#) - Community choices compiled by Vegan in San Diego
- [Maya’s Cookies](#) - Vegan cookies made in San Diego (black-owned)
- [OFR \(Ocean Friendly Restaurants\)](#) - List compiled by Surfrider Foundation, San Diego Chapter
- [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*
- [San Diego's Top 15 Vegan Restaurants](#) - From the *San Diego Union-Tribune*; last compiled in 2016, but the restaurants listed are all open for business.
- [Soul Much](#) - This local bakery whips up delicious cookies using ingredients created from rescued food. Soul Much cookies are available online and at farmers markets in and around San Diego.
- [Vegan in San Diego](#) - Find meet-ups, cooking classes, businesses, services, events, festivals, recipes, and more! Hosted by Vegan in San Diego, Anthem North Park, and The El Cajon Boulevard Business Association.

SHOPPING AROUND TOWN

- [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.
- [Fair World](#) - goods, gifts and fashion. Located at The Headquarters at Seaport.
- [La Mesa California a fair trade town](#) - Since 2012, La Mesa has participated in the Fair Trade Towns movement. Their website explains more about fair trade and guides you to shopping opportunities in La Mesa and beyond.
- [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.
- [Simply Local](#) - Over 55 local merchants gathered in one shop in North Park offer up artistically crafted goods, 85% of which are made right here in San Diego.

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 non-profits 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.
- [Where Am I Wearing](#) - A valuable resource created by author Kelsey Timmerman based on his book about where our clothes comes from and the people who make them

ALL

- [Fair Indigo](#) - Clothing and gifts, some made in America, some fair trade
- [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. Shop their catalog for charming gifts or purchase a membership.



- [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.

ACTIVE LIFESTYLE

- [Gaiam](#) - Yoga clothing and accessories
- [icebreaker](#) - Natural performance alternatives to synthetic based apparel to create a healthier more sustainable future for our species and the planet.
- [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)

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 & SNACKS

- [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!!)
- [Chico Bags](#) - Reusable bags, including snack and [produce bags](#), made from organic cotton and hemp (B Corp, 1% for the planet)
- [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.
- [Thailand Unique](#) - Offers an alternative source of sustainable protein—insects! For that very special someone...
- [To-Go Ware](#) - Bamboo utensil sets and stainless steel food containers
- [Vegan Essentials](#) - Gifts and food with a special holiday section

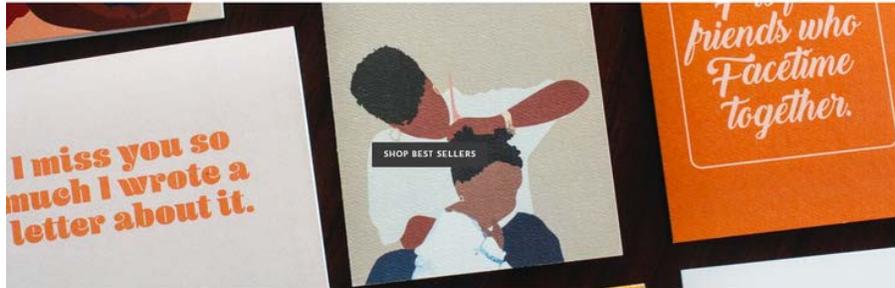


HANDBAGS

- [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.”



- [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.
- [Funk & the Sun](#) - Handmade earrings crafted by Symone Williams, a local designer. [Funky accessories that give back](#): This small Black-owned business donates proceeds to [Mutual Aid](#) networks.
- [Great Green Goods](#) - Everything featured on this blog is made from recycled materials.
- [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.
- [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.
- [NaturalKidz](#) - Children's clothing store. Many of the clothes are made from recycled and/or sustainable products.
- [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

- [Grovmade](#) - Eco-conscious bamboo and wool iphone & ipod cases made in Oregon
- [Kill-a-watt electricity usage monitor](#) - This device monitors home energy usage and shows how much electricity appliances and other things in your home and garage use. Also available is the Kill-a-watt power strip.
- [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

Many of these nonprofits survive on donations and need help feeding and caring for animals that they rescue throughout the year. If you have an animal lover on your list, a donation to any of these organizations is sure to please.

ANIMAL LOVERS

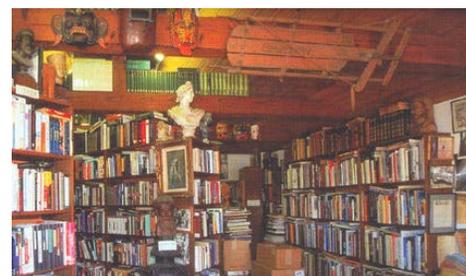
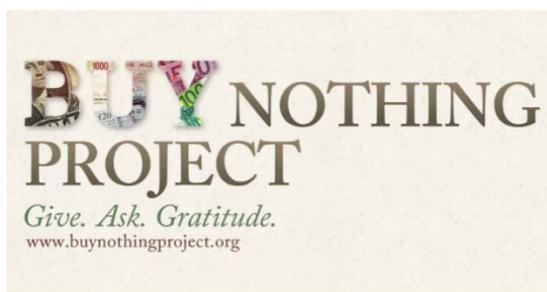
- [Animal Place](#) - Located in the Sierra Nevada foothills, this organization rescues farm animals.
- [Animal Rescue Resource Foundation](#) - "ARRF is an organization with years of combined experience in rescue, spay/neuter and support of people that are helping animals get a better deal. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization working to assist the rescue community, educate the public, and support low cost spay/neuter efforts." [Donations](#) page on their website for ways to help.
- [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 of \$35.00. And for a donation of \$150.00 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.
- [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!
- [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! Also accepts [donations](#).
- [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](#)!
- [San Diego Audubon Society](#) - "The mission of San Diego Audubon Society is to foster the protection and appreciation of birds, other wildlife, and their habitats, through education and study, and advocate for a cleaner, healthier environment."
- [San Diego Farm Animal Rescue](#) - "We rescue farm animals in need, educate through experience, and advocate for compassionate, sustainable, and environmentally friendly policies." SDFAR provides volunteer opportunities, tours, animal [sponsorship](#), donation options, and the ability to join their [foster](#) network! Plus, check out their [store](#) for some merchandise or stay at their [AirBnB](#) located on their property.
- [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.

- [Steam Punk Farms Rescue Barn](#) - "Rescue farm & home to humans, dogs, some cats, goats, chickens, ducks, tortoises, pigs, and a very old donkey. Built with re-purposed junk & lots of love."

PLANTS & GARDENING

- [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.
- [Keys Creek Lavender Farm](#) - Organic lavender farm with a shop and nursery; also hosts classes, workshops, tours, yoga retreats, and afternoon tea. They are currently not open to the public, but they offer online purchasing with delivery or local pick-up.
- [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 classes, gardening classes, volunteer, and 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](#). Closed to in-person activities at the moment due to COVID-19.
- [UC San Diego community gardens](#) - UC San Diego has 6 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.

Due to Covid-19 precautions, policies and hours may have changed. This list has been vetted for closures, but before setting off, please check to see that your favorite shops are accepting donations and open for business at this particular time.

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

Some staff favorites include:

- [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 in the store in [Santee](#). 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.

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 grab a cuppa 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.

- [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](#) in San Diego

Some staff favorites include:

- [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 (currently online shopping only) but check out their website for amazing streaming events
- [Maxwell's House of Books](#) in La Mesa

- [San Diego Public Libraries](#) (Mission Valley is especially nice!) Donations not currently accepted as of October 2020 (check their site for updates)

ART SUPPLIES

- [ArtForm](#) - This creative reuse nonprofit has treasures galore for artists of all ages. They also offer camps and workshops. The Saturday pop-up store is currently closed but items are still available via their website.



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.



- [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.
- [Quick and Easy DIY Map Magnets](#) - Fun and easy magnets for the traveler or armchair traveler.
- [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.
- [Dryer Lint Fire Starters](#) - An alternate approach to fire starters - uses dryer lint, empty egg cartons and old candles.
- [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.
- According to [Eco-Chick](#) 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.
- [Eco Giftwrap](#) - 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 them wrap the gift!** There are beautiful food wraps and cloth that make great gift wrap.
 - [Beeswax Wrap](#)
 - [Colorful reusable food 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 newspaper.

- **No time to DIY**, but want to find eco-friendly vendors with green products/services for wrapping? Try these:
 - [Wrappily](#)
 - [Wrapped By Alice](#)
 - [Luna Nectar](#)
 - [Oprah's Favorites](#)
- [Holiday Gift Wrapping Ideas: Pinterest Inspiration](#) - *Mother Earth News* offers up more wrapping inspiration

CLEANING UP AFTER THE CELEBRATION

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

WHAT TO DO WITH "EXTRA STUFF"

- [Art FORM \(Found Objects Recycled Materials\)](#) - A nonprofit that provides arts education with creative reuse to schools, teachers, and the community. Art FORM accepts [donated materials](#) and also offers creative reuse materials and art supplies to the community every Saturday from 10am–2pm. Visit the Saturday store at 3316 Adams Avenue, San Diego, CA 92116 and choose among fabulous reuse materials and art supplies, all available for a low-cost donation. All proceeds from the Saturday store benefit Art FORM's school and community programs.
- [Terracycle](#) - This is the company that purchases the UC San Diego Library defunct pens and markers. Check out the fun items that they have made from recycled materials, including ours.

FOR MORE INSPIRATION - BOOKS AND MAGS YOU MIGHT ENJOY

The following books and magazine 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.

- [Eco-Friendly Crafting with Kids](#) - Quirky, colorful, and fun projects for pre-school 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 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 life style 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.

HAPPY CONSCIOUS SHOPPING!