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Mid-City Gifts



2009 Holiday Gifts

By Hunter Gorinson

For some, what's ever so sardonically deemed "the most wonderful time of the year" can deescalate into a frenzied mess of gift receipts and last minute purchases. Lucky for Washingtonians then that the city today holds a more than ample cross-section of local retailers both big and small, pricey and low-key, that are making the quest for the perfect gift this holiday season a sans stress affair. Follow DC North's newest shopping feature, "Retail Therapy," as we point out the spots that'll let you cross friends and family off your list -- without having to check it twice.



1



2

Bang & Olufsen

Melding cutting edge technology with sleeker than sleek design, Bang & Olufsen's Logan Circle location is a one-stop shop for gizmos so stylish that they qualify as works of art unto themselves. Everything from cordless phones to clock radios gets re-spun with both function and futuristic form in mind. Their take on the latter, for instance -- the cordless, "soft touch" controlled BeoSound 3 (\$499) -- looks just as at home sitting on a countertop as it does wall-mounted amongst an art collection. 1604 14th St NW • www.beologancircle.com

1

Ben's Chili Bowl

With the Commander-in-Chief now a bona fide Ben's aficionado, this 51-year-old U Street staple's star has ascended to the national level and...they're taking its famed half-smokes along for the ride. Just in time for the holidays, the D.C. landmark is now shipping heaping quantities of their trademark, handmade sausages (\$59.95 and up), house chili sauce (\$54.95) and authentic, Ben's-branded swag to all 50 states. 1213 U St. NW • www.halfsmokes.com

2



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www.bzbinternational.com

2009 *Holiday Gifts*

3



3

The Big Bad Woof

Just because you're a pet, doesn't mean you can't be practical. As of one of the District's few eco-friendly supply depots for cats, dogs and "small mammals," The Big Bad Woof offers up locavore, DC-made dog treats (\$4.99-\$7.99), along with tech-savvy innovations like the Sleepy Pod (\$149-\$169) -- a convertible bed/carrying case with built-in heater that gives new meaning to the term "creature comforts." 117 Carroll St. NW • www.thebigbadwoof.com



4

4

Capital Carpet and Furniture

Equally adept at both wall-to-wall and stand-alone textiles, Capital Carpet and Furniture boasts a mind-boggling array of rugs and carpets imported from far-flung corners of the globe. A separate exhibition space adjoining their 14th St. furniture showroom displays hundreds upon hundreds of both machine and handmade rugs. Amongst the most impressive of the latter are a select few Persian and Orientals (\$275) that are still handcrafted by Iranian artisans to this day. 1905 14th St. NW • www.capitalcarpetfurniture.com

5



5

Delectable Cakery

Having made the transition from secret family recipe to metro area taste sensation, Delectable Cakery's "Washingtonian Sweet Potato Cake" (\$39 and up) is now a Christmas season favorite in the nation's capital and one of the few uniquely D.C. dishes that the city can call its own. Often imitated, but never duplicated, hordes of eager-to-impress holiday revelers still insist on obtaining an authentic sweet potato confection from the cake impresarios that started it all. 3311 Rhode Island Ave. NW • www.delectablecakery.com



6

6

Go Mama Go!

International and independent, Go Mama Go! has been stocking at a wide variety of globally-minded products for nigh on a decade. Ever charitable, their fair trade stuffed animals (\$20-30), benefit their African craftsmen, while they also host the work of artists closer to home, like the mixed-media collage of D.C.'s own Kreg D. Kelley (\$450). Even found items, such as felled trees, get the "waste not" treatment in the form of polished cherry and maple wine stoppers (\$30). 1809 14th Street NW • www.gomamago.com



Shop Shaw for the Holidays

Whether it's **gift certificates** for **custom framing and art** (*Longview Gallery, 1234 9th Street, NW*), **flowers, plants, and holiday decorations** (*Convention Floral, 1920 9th Street, NW, Johnnie's Florist, 2000 Georgia Avenue, NW, or Old City Green, 902 N Street, NW*), **a night on the town** (*EFN Lounge/Motley Bar, 1318 9th Street, NW, DC 9, 1940 9th Street, NW, or Town DanceBoutique, 2009 8th Street, NW*), **drinks and snacks while watching the big game** (*Nellie's Sports Bar, 900 U Street, NW, or Old Dominion Brewhouse, 1219 9th Street, NW*), or **dinner and drinks** at *1905 Restaurant, 1905 9th Street, NW, Chan's Mongolian Grill and Tokyo Sushi, 1217 9th Street, NW, Corduroy Restaurant, 1122 9th Street, NW, Etete Ethiopian Cuisine, 1942 9th Street, NW, The Passenger, 1021 7th Street, NW, or Queen of Sheba Restaurant, 1503 9th Street, NW...*

You'll find gifts for everyone on your holiday shopping list in Shaw.

For more information, visit www.shawmainstreets.com
or call 202-265-SHAW.

SHAWMAINSTREETS.COM

2009 Holiday Gifts



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8



9



10

Housewares

For the past six years, Housewares has been fighting the good fight as a local supplier of home necessities and made their name by stocking items the fly beneath the radar of the corporate competition. Case in point: instead of scented candles and potpourri, check out the store's unique "fragrance tassels" (\$25.99) that, once hung from a bedpost or curtain rod, can bring the understated scents of fresh currant or San Paquita to a loved one's home or office. 1627 17th St. NW • 202-745-3538

7

Hunted House

"Christmas is the season of light, right? Consider giving the gift of light to others or to yourself," says Mark Johnson, owner of 14th St.'s quirky cache of vintage furniture, the Hunted House. His store is brimming with vintage lighting, from floor lamps like the 1950's Sputnik-styled piece (\$245) that Johnson cites as a favorite, to table lamps of chrome and cork (\$195), a pair of teak, bulb-topped bowling pins (\$300), and a green ceramic bird totem with two-tier shade (\$165). 1830 1/2 14th St. NW • www.huntedhousedc.com

8

Miss Pixie's

For nearly 15 years, Miss Pixie has been providing the antidote to button-down Washington décor from her eponymous "furnishings and what not" emporium. Truly a place where everything old is new again (and vice versa), there's no telling what one will stumble across on her eclectically stocked shelves, whether it be a post-War children's bi-plane (\$225), "Geek Chic" handbags culled from reclaimed floppy disks (\$35) or authentic 1950s-era poker chips (\$5 a box). 1626 14th St. NW • www.misspixies.com

9

Pulp

With merchandise that's at once outrageous and artistic, Pulp's been peddling its inspired gift cards and tchotchkes since 2001 and, in the interim, become 14 St.'s designated retailer for off-the-wall ephemera. This year, the boutique's "Mighty Michelle" Obama shopping totes are flying off the shelves, along with their ever popular "stars and bars" D.C. flag t-shirts (\$28.95) and decorative, bonbon shaped soaps (\$6) so lifelike that you'll be salivating in the shower. 1803 14th St. NW • www.pulpd.com

10



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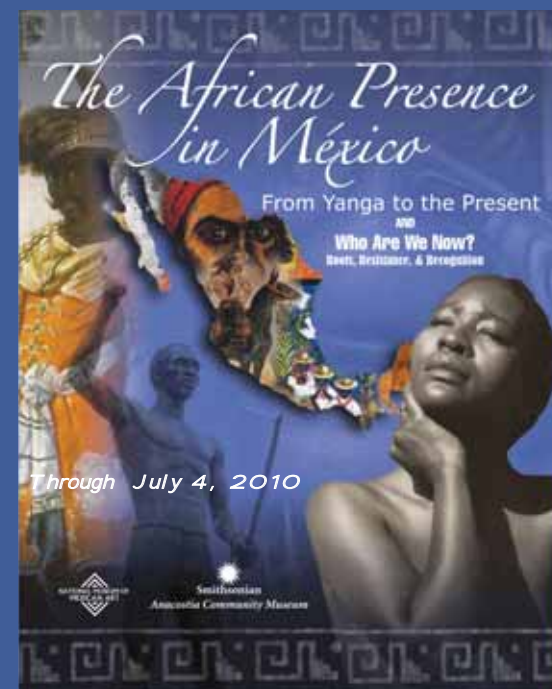
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Smithsonian
Anacostia Community Museum



These exhibitions examine the history, culture and art of Afro-Mexicans beginning in the colonial era through the present. For general info call 202.633.4820; for required reservations call 202.633.4844.

Public Programs at the
Anacostia Community Museum:
(reservations required)

Dec. 5 Africa's Legacy in Mexico and Central and South America, 1 pm, Tony Gleaton examines the African Diaspora through his photographs.

Dec. 8 Against the Odds: The Artists of the Harlem Renaissance, 10:30 am, Film on black artists of the 1920s and 1930s with discussion led by Robert Hall. (60 min.)

Dec. 9 Casta Paintings and the Image of Race in Mexico, 7 pm, Exhibition co-curator, Sagrario Cruz-Carretero discusses colonial Mexico's casta system and painting.

Dec. 12 Make a Free-Form Art Quilt! 10 am, Small art quilt-making workshop; no quilting skills required.

Dec. 13 Rhythm Café: Afro-Mexican Music from Costa Chica and Veracruz, 11 am, Talk about Afro-Mexican music and demonstration by Cosita Seria band.

Dec. 19 Making Bling! 10:30 am, Create jewelry in the first of 6 classes by *Bedazzled* designer Kathleen Manning. Fee-based.

Dec. 26, 28 & 30 Kwanzaa workshops, 10 am daily
Umoja - music with Brother Ah; Ujima - arts & crafts;
Nia - storytelling with Baba-C, Jose Grevis & Ayo Handy-Kendi

Organized by the National Museum of Mexican Art, Chicago, these exhibitions received federal support from the Latino Initiatives Pool, administered by the Smithsonian Latino Center. Exhibition programs and special events are presented in collaboration with the Smithsonian Latino Center, the National Museum of African Art, the Mexican Cultural Institute, and the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage.

1901 Fort Place SE Open daily 10 am-5pm, closed Dec. 25 anacostia.si.edu

2009 *Holiday Gifts*

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Reincarnations

As self-described catalysts of creativity, Reincarnations offers a host of one-of-a-kind pieces of decorative furnishings and dining ware capable of transforming any home from ordinary to offbeat in one fell swoop. Even an everyday evening highball gets a high style twist when poured from one of this aptly titled 14th St. shop's interlocking and surreally distorted glass decanters (\$125). From art to lighting accessories, nearly every possible home accoutrement takes on a new life under Reincarnations' exotic eye. 1401 14th St. NW • www.reincarnationsfurnishings.com.

12



12

Urban Essentials

Billing itself as "a new standard contemporary living," Urban Essentials lives up to its name by offering up some of the most stylish cosmopolitan home décor and fine dining fundamentals that U St. has to offer. With their wide selection of voguish, yet affordable, items -- such as a dazzlingly designed grid wine rack (\$65) or subtly ironic champagne bottle caddy (\$60)—winning over the hard-to-please tastemaker in your life has never been easier. 1330 U St. NW • www.urban-essentials.com

13

Wagtime

If our four-legged friends had any purchasing power, chances are they'd run up a long list of expenses at Wagtime. Equal parts rescue shelter and "paw spa," this altruistic operation also hosts a boutique for the upscale pup with everything from everyday items -- i.e., eco-friendly "tee-bones" made out of recycled cotton (\$17.50) -- to holiday-themed regalia, such as red-and-white Christmas scarves (\$7.50) and stuffed dreidels for "Chewish" patrons (\$10). 1232 9th St. NW • www.wagtimedc.com

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