

November 2020



# HOLIDAY

# Gift Guide

*A special supplement to* The Malone Telegram



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# “Jingle Without The Mingle” Fundraiser for Foothills ARTSociety



Members of Foothills arranging gift items in store window at Focal Point, 383 West Main St. Bev Quenville. Sue LeVitre Nancy Child

Foothills ARTSociety members have been busy preparing for a Holiday Sale which includes virtual sales as well as a temporary gift shop on Main St. For the last month, over 150 items have been accepted, photographed, priced, put online and arranged in the gift shop.

The virtual sale can be viewed and items purchased

at [foothillsartsociety.com](http://foothillsartsociety.com). This sale became live on Nov. 16th. The location where the items have been put on display is the front window of the former Kriff's building, now Focal Point, at 383 West Main St. The owners, Tom and Nora Shultz, have graciously offered this space for the display. The gift shop will be open Thursdays and Fri-

days, except Thanksgiving, from 11 - 6 until the end of the sale on Dec. 18. Items may be purchased here and online shoppers may pick up the items they have bought.

Included are original works of art (including paintings by local artists Charlie King, Pamela May and Arnie Sauter), furniture, pottery, gift certificates, jewelry, as well as other rescued treasures from different homes in Malone. In addition to all the items displayed online, there will be other items only on display at the gift shop such as a large collection of novelty scarves and shawls. Items received after the deadline for online inclusion will also be displayed there - a suitcase in perfect condition, a set of four decorated ceramic pots, a full size comforter set and much more.

Foothills ARTSociety board members have been very generous in donating items for a Holiday Gift Basket Raffle. Included in the large handcrafted basket are bottles of wine, liquor, hard ci-

der, a candle, gourmet food, maple syrup, a cutting board made by Gary Tatro, a set of placemats, wine goblets & flutes and glass stirrers. The basket is on display at Focal Point and raffle tickets may be purchased from any board member or at the gift shop on Thurs., and Fri. from 11 - 6.

Tickets are 1 for \$5, 3 for \$10 and 8 for \$20.

The drawing will be Dec. 18th, in plenty of time for Christmas.

Foothills ARTSociety is a non for profit organization dedicated to advancing creativity and artistic awareness in our community.

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# Gifts to make social distancing more enjoyable

Exchanging gifts with loved ones is a holiday season tradition. That tradition figures to continue this year, though families will almost certainly have to adjust the ways they exchange gifts.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the winter of 2019-20 changed how people across the globe live their lives. Social distancing guidelines encouraged people to limit get-togethers, particularly indoor gatherings. Experts anticipate restrictions on indoor gatherings will continue in the early part of the winter of 2020-21, which could force families to rethink how they get together during the holiday season.

Families also may want to think outside the box when buying gifts for their loved ones, targeting items that can make social distancing easier. The following gift ideas can make a socially distant holiday season that much more special for a loved one.

## Streaming subscription

Movie theaters have been closed for months in many areas. But movie lovers still want to see their favorite flicks, so a streaming subscription to a service such as Netflix or Amazon Prime can be just what they need to stay entertained while social distancing

this winter. For fans of classic films, including indie movies, foreign films and big studio productions, a subscription to the Criterion Channel might make the perfect gift. Curated by the Criterion Collection, this streaming service provides access to a library of more than 1,000 classic and contemporary films, making it an ideal gift for the family film buff.

## Cooking classes

Many people have spent the last several months honing their culinary skills. Gift givers can help them take those skills to the next level by enrolling them in online cooking classes. The options are endless and some even include access to legendary celebrity chefs like Gordon Ramsay. Many online cooking classes feature monthly memberships or single classes, making them ideal for loved ones of all skill and interest levels.

## Technology

Technology has helped many people stay connected with friends and family while social distancing, so a new tablet, laptop or desktop computer can be just what people need to fully engage in family Zoom sessions or weekly virtual happy hours with coworkers and friends. If a new tablet or laptop stretches your budget,



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consider a pair of noise-canceling headphones, which can make it easier to concentrate while working remotely in a crowded house.

## Crafting kit

Hobbyists may have had their passions for crafting reinvigorated while social distancing, making a crafting kit an ideal gift to help them fill their downtime. Beginner's kits also

can make an ideal gift for novices looking for an engaging, time-consuming hobby.

Certain gifts can be a perfect fit during a socially distant holiday season.

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# CHRISTMAS



Carrie Robinson of Bangor, originally from Malone, and her family placed a tree at the center of the Fairgrounds on Saturday, ahead of the third annual Parade of Lights Christmas Festival. The event is scheduled for Nov. 28 at 4:30 p.m. Christmas inflatables will be placed around the tree and those who participate in the parade will drive their lighted vehicles from St. Joseph's School on Elm Street to the Fairgrounds. This year, due to COVID-19, the Robinsons are asking everyone to remain in their vehicles for the duration. The parade will begin when the tree's lights are lit. The tree was brought over from Chateaugay on Saturday, with Malone's village police assisting the family in an escort to the tree site. The star placed at the top of the tree was created by Jamie O'Connor, Robinson's fiancé. Registration is still open for anyone who wants to participate in the parade. To sign up, visit Malone's Parade of Lights Facebook page or contact Carrie Robinson.

Vin Gallo/Malone Telegram



Brian Robinson uses a chainsaw to trim the tree stump, on Saturday. Vin Gallo/The Malone Telegram



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# TRADITION



**Brian Robinson, left, and Jamie O'Connor, right, place a homemade star at the top of the tree, on Saturday.** Vin Gallo/The Malone Telegram



**Above: Steve Robinson, right, and Jamie O'Connor, left, secure the tree into its stand at the center of the fairgrounds, on Saturday. Left: Brian Robinson holds up Jamie O'Connor's homemade star before placing it at the top of the tree, on Saturday.** Vin Gallo/The Malone Telegram



*Downtown Artist Cellar invites you to slow down & notice the little things this holiday season.*

## *The Little Things Exhibit* Online at [downtownartistcellar.com](http://downtownartistcellar.com)

Features smaller artwork by local artists priced for gift giving and exclusive jewelry by Charles Atwood King.

**Featured artist, Jackie Ta.** Jackie's newest series, "Footsteps of a Stranger - Malone, NY", features winter scenes around Malone, where she has been staying in 2020.

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# Great gifts for book lovers

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Books are very popular gifts come the holiday season. Genres that run the gamut from fantasy to nonfiction ensure there's a book out there for everyone. But finding the right gift for a book-loving loved one may not be as easy as it seems.

Avid readers may have personal book collections that rival local libraries, so it can be difficult to find something they haven't already read. In addition, asking them what's on their wish list of books can remove the element of surprise from holiday gift-giving. Fortunately, shoppers can still light up their favorite book lovers' eyes this holiday season, even if they're not giving them a recent best-seller.

■ **Bookshelf:** E-readers may provide instant access to millions of books, but many avid readers still prefer physical books. Bookshelves can make the perfect gift for book lovers who take great pride in their home libraries. Bookshelves come in all shapes, sizes and styles, from ladder bookcases to floating bookshelves to built-ins. A basic understanding of your loved one's home decor preferences is all you need to find a bookshelf that can blend in seamlessly in his or her reading room.

■ **Audio book subscription:**



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Audio book subscription services have grown in popularity in recent years. These services make it possible for busy readers to devour their favorite books while commuting to and from work or running daily errands in the car. Amazon's Audible membership provides readers with a host of benefits, including discounts on audio-book purchases, monthly credits toward anything available through the service and even complimentary digital newspaper subscriptions.

■ **Bookends:** Book lovers tend to put a lot of effort into designing their reading rooms. Decorative bookends, which can have a humorous angle or tie into a theme that correlates to readers' favorite literary genre (i.e., boat bookends for

lovers of maritime histories), can make for great, unique gifts.

■ **Embossers:** Embossers allow readers to put their personal stamps on every book in their collections. That not only adds a unique touch to readers' personal libraries, but also may increase the chances that the books they loan out to friends and family members are ultimately returned. After all, who wouldn't return a book to its original owner when that book has been personally embossed?

Many items make the perfect gift for book lovers, even if shoppers are unsure about buying their loved ones actual books.

# How to host virtual holiday celebrations

Metro

The 2020 holiday season figures to be vastly different than seasons past. The novel coronavirus COVID-19 has transformed daily life in many ways. The public has become accustomed to wearing masks while shopping, limiting the number of people in public venues and keeping their distance from friends and loved ones. Many events have been reimagined as virtual celebrations because of social distancing protocols. For those with large families or people with inherent risk factors that make them more susceptible to illness, sharing the holidays over video conferencing apps may be the safest way to go in 2020.

The following tips can help holiday hosts make the most of a virtual holiday experience.

Pick a bright, festive spot

Set up your tablet, smartphone or computer in a bright area with a festive backdrop. You'll want others who join the virtual hangout to be able to see you clearly. A

Christmas tree or a decorated fireplace in the background can set the scene.

**Choose the right conferencing app**

Certain programs may work better than others depending on your needs. For example, if everyone has the same op-

See VIRTUAL 7

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# Virtual

From 6

erating system platform (iOS or Android), you may be able to use an app inherent to that system, which won't require a separate download or login.

Apps also may be chosen depending on how many people can be invited in, as some set limits. Do your homework and conduct a test run prior to the holidays.

## Keep props nearby

If the goal is to open gifts virtually, be sure to have everyone gathered and gifts nearby so no one is scrambling in and out of view.

## Use mute when not speaking

Muting yourself (and encouraging others to do the same) when you are not speaking will limit the amount of background noise. As the host, serve as the moderator and encourage everyone to speak one at a time. Choose a visual cue to signal when someone has the floor to speak, such as raising a hand or even showing a festive picture.

## Share dinner 'together'

Set up your camera source so it captures the holiday table. All parties gathering virtually can then sit down to the holiday meal as one and enjoy one of the season's more endearing traditions.

Virtual celebrations may continue through the holiday season. Adapting with some video conferencing tips can ensure everyone enjoys the festivities.

# Shop safely Cyber Monday



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Cyber Monday is a lucrative day for retailers. According to Adobe Analytics, which measured transactions from a majority of popular online retailers in the United States, consumers spent an average of \$11 million per minute between 11 p.m. EST and midnight EST on Cyber Monday in 2019. And it wasn't just the final hour of Cyber Monday that proved popular, as total sales in 2019 increased by roughly 19 percent compared to Cyber Monday a year prior.

The internet has made holiday shopping easier than ever, and retailers capitalize on that convenience every year on Cyber Monday. Savvy consumers recognize there's great deals to be had on Cyber Monday, but the popular shopping holiday also marks a great time for cyber criminals to target unsuspecting online shoppers.

Holiday shoppers spend

more time and money buying gifts online every year, so before the buying season begins it's wise for shoppers to consider a few strategies for shopping safely this Cyber Monday.

■ Beware of malvertising. In recent years, cyber criminals have employed malvertising to trick online shoppers into taking them to websites that look reputable. But looks can be deceiving. Malvertising injects malicious code into legitimate online advertising networks. If consumers accidentally click a malicious ad, the malvertising can trigger a code that installs malware or adware on their computers, redirect users to a malicious website instead of the one the ad suggests or redirect users to a website that looks just like a legitimate retailer's site, even though it's not. Update antivirus and ad blockers prior to Cyber Monday. In addition, update browsers and plugins, which can often pre-

vent malvertising attacks.

Avoid searching through search engines. When shopping, resist the temptation to look for deals through search engines. Cyber criminals can insert malicious links into search results, directing unsuspecting to consumers to malicious websites designed to target their personal information. When looking for deals, visit the websites of established retailers instead of conducting searches through browsers like

Google or Firefox.

■ Read a URL before buying anything. One old yet still effective trick cyber criminals employ is creating websites that look identical to those of trusted retailers. These copycat sites may only be one letter different from legitimate sites. By reading URLs closely prior to entering any personal information, such as their credit card numbers, consumers can protect themselves from copycat websites.

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# The fabric of Plaid Friday

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The holiday season sometimes arrives with a frenetic pace. At the dawn of the holiday season, there seems to be so much to fit into a relatively short period of time, including planning celebrations and shopping. The rush often begins the Friday after American Thanksgiving on a day called Black Friday.

Plaid Friday was born out of a recognition that the frenzied nature of Black Friday may not be for everyone. The event was created in Oakland, Calif., to transform holiday shopping for family and friends into a more connected, pleasurable activity than Black Friday. Plaid Friday promotes the diversity and creativity of local and independent businesses. On Plaid Friday, customers are urged to shop locally and enjoy choosing gifts in a more leisurely fashion.

According to event organizers, the name 'Plaid Friday' was chosen from the idea of weaving individual threads of small businesses together to create a



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strong fabric that celebrates independent businesses. While Plaid Friday may have originated in California, it has now spread to local towns across the country. Plaid Friday precedes Small Business Saturday, meaning holiday shoppers can turn their two-day, post-Thanksgiving shopping excursions into 48 hours of opportunities to support small businesses.

Shoppers have many differ-

ent ways to support the Plaid Friday movement.

■ Look for signage or social media advertising regarding Plaid Friday. Many establishments may advertise Plaid Friday sales. Keep an eye out for signs or hashtags on social media, such as #plaidfriday, #shop-local and #dinelocal.

■ Let others know you're supporting local businesses. Spread the word about Plaid Friday to

others who may not be aware of the movement.

■ Wear plaid clothing on Plaid Friday to show local business solidarity.

■ Search community blotters and other local websites to find out more about Plaid Friday efforts in your community.

■ Certain shops may have scaled-back sales due to COVID-19 restrictions. Continue to support these businesses as much as possible, taking advantage of curbside pickup or

delivery options that can further streamline holiday shopping.

■ Explore new offerings. Some businesses you frequently shop with may have altered their services and products to fit the changing times. As a result, you may be able to purchase a greater variety of items all in one store.

Local shopping is at the heart of Plaid Friday. Shoppers who want to avoid the typical rush of Black Friday shopping can visit small local businesses.

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# Why are Christmas colors red and green?

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Many people may not get in the holiday spirit without decorations and all the trimmings. Chances are strong that if you have containers full of items just waiting to see the light of day again this holiday season, those items are red or green or some combination thereof.

Red and green have become the traditional colors of Christmas, just as blue and white symbolizes Chanukah. But how did this color palette come to evolve?

Just like many traditions of Christmas, the red and green scheme has origins that pre-date the Christian celebration. Christmas has borrowed from many of the customs of winter solstice celebrations of ancient peoples, including the Celts. Ancient Celtic people revered holly plants, believing they brought beauty and good fortune in the middle of winter — a time when the landscape is normally bleak and holly plants thrive and stand out. Celts would regularly bring in sprigs of holly and decorate their homes with the plants, which feature shiny, serrated leaves and bright, red berries, as a way to guarantee a prosperous new year. Holly also



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came to be associated with the crown of thorns Jesus Christ was forced to wear during his crucifixion.

The custom of using red and green continued into the 14th century. Dr. Spike Bucklow, a research scientist at the University of Cambridge, says red and green also were used to paint medieval rood screens, which were partitions installed in churches to separate the congregation from the priest and altar. Dr. Bucklow notes that Victorians also extended the association of these colors as a physical boundary to another bound-

ary: the marking of the end of the old year and the beginning of a new one at Christmastime.

While red and green had associations with Christmas in early times through holly and other sources, the connection was perhaps best solidified thanks to a man named Haddon Sundblom. Sundblom was an artist commissioned in 1931 by the Coca-Cola company to create an image of Santa

Claus for the company's upcoming holiday ads. Until this point, versions of Santa were rarely consistent, with his clothing vacillating between green, blue and red. He also wasn't the plump, jolly fellow associated with Christmas as we know him today, but rather thin and elf-like. Sundblom portrayed him as a chubby man wearing red robes, likely as a nod to Coca-Cola's own red logo, even though the company denies the connection. Santa was featured in

front of a green background. The ads proved popular and Sundblom's Santa became the preferred depiction. Santa's red robes perfectly complemented the green background and other green components of the holiday, such as Christmas trees and holly, that already had been solidified as Christmas imagery.

Color plays a strong role in creating Christmas nostalgia. Red and green are put on vivid display throughout the season.

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# Steps for hanging holiday lights outdoors

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It begins to look a lot like Christmas when twinkling lights brighten up homes inside and out. Few things liven up the season more than holiday decorations, particularly clear and colored lights.

Prior to taking out the lights, ladder and thermos of coffee to get you through the job, it's important to note that there are right and wrong ways to hang holiday lights.

■ Sketch out your plan. Start by taking a few photos of your home from various vantage points. Print out the photos on regular paper so that you can draw your lighting arrangement and decoration placement right on the photos to see how things will look.

■ Measure the area. Use a measuring tape to roughly measure the width and height of eaves or other areas of the home where you plan to hang light strands. Calculate how much overall footage you will need so you can purchase all of

the lights in one shopping trip.

■ Test the lights first. Plug in the lights to be sure all strands are operational.

■ Begin where the lights will be plugged in. Start where the lights will be plugged in and then work your way around the house.

■ Add to shrubs and trees. Lights also can adorn shrubs and trees. Lowe's Home Improvement says a good rule of thumb is 100 lights for every 1 1/2-feet of tree or shrub to cover. A 6-foot evergreen needs at least 400 lights for a basic level of lighting.

■ Exercise extreme caution. Accidents can happen when stringing lights. While many professionals use harnesses, homeowners are not always so cautious. Utilize a spotter to hold the ladder and make sure things are safe. Never set foot on a wet or icy roof. Do not attempt to string lights in inclement weather.

■ Know the wattage. Each outlet can generally hold about

17 amps or 1,870 watts if the lights are not sharing a circuit with another outlet, says Parrish. Plan accordingly to ensure you have enough power to handle your lights.

■ Use plastic clips. Plastic light clips hang strands along eaves and gables. They're specially designed for hanging lights over the gutters. Some slip under the edges of roof shingles. Lights can be hung without staples or nails, which can damage exterior surfaces. Plastic zip-ties or deck clips also can attach lights along a hand-rail.

■ Use only outdoor extension cords. Be sure the extension cords you use are designed specifically for outdoor use.

■ Use a timer. Timers can make sure the lights turn on and off even if homeowners forget.

Once lights have been safely strung, sit back and enjoy the splendor of a well-decorated house.



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# Must-haves to achieve a holiday wonderland

Metro

The end of the year marks a period of heightened festivity. Come the holiday season, homes and businesses are decorated and everyone seems to have an extra spring in their step.

The sight of snowflakes, candy canes, evergreen wreaths, and Christmas trees can elicit nostalgia for happy holidays of the past, as well as excitement for what is yet to come. When it comes to decorating for the holidays, there are certain items that set the scene.

■ **Christmas trees:** Germany is credited with starting the modern Christmas tree tradition. It dates back to the 16th century when devout Christians brought trees into their homes and decorated them. German settlers brought Christmas tree traditions to America upon their arrival in Pennsylvania in the 19th century.

■ **Mistletoe:** Mistletoe is known as the 'kissing plant' and it is customary for couples to kiss while standing beneath the plant, typically hung in doorways and arches. Mistletoe was once hung to drive off evil spirits and ensure fertility. Kissing under the mistletoe



METRO

was first found associated with the Greek festival of Saturnalia and later with primitive marriage rites.

■ **Lights:** Lights are commonly seen during the holiday season. The custom of having holiday lights dates back to when Christmas trees were decorated with candles, which symbolized Christ being the

light of the world. These traditions evolved from pagan rituals that would celebrate the return of light of the sun as the days grow longer after the

winter solstice.

■ **Yule log:** Many families burn a yule log in the fireplace and watch it burn while listening to Christmas carols. The

familiar custom of burning the log dates back to solstice celebrations and the tradition of bonfires. The Christmas tradition called for burning a portion of the log each evening until Twelfth Night, also known as the Epiphany, which takes place on January 6.

■ **Poinsettias:** Poinsettias are a tropical plant that originated in Mexico. Joel Roberts Poinsett was the first Ambassador from the United States to Mexico. He became enamored with the plants, and brought them back to his native South Carolina. An old Mexican legend suggests a poor girl had nothing to offer baby Jesus at Christmas Eve services, so she picked a handful of weeds and put them at the bottom of the nativity scene. These weeds burst into bright red flowers and became known as 'Flores de Noche Buena,' or 'Flowers of the Holy Night.'

Holiday decorations borrow traditions from all over the world to help establish a festive wonderland.

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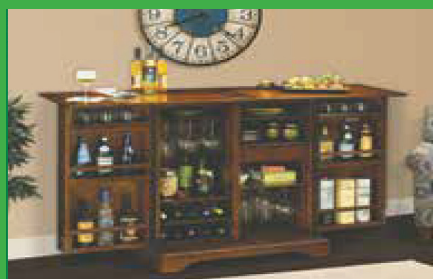
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