

WILSHIRE GARDEN MARKET

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CELEBRATING 14 YEARS

2821 Wilshire Blvd., Oklahoma City, OK 73116

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HOLIDAY GIFT TRADITIONS

The holiday season is upon us, the season of warm family reunions, parties, feasts, and gift giving! Each family has its own special traditions of shared meals, gift exchanges, cookie baking, trimming a tree, decking the halls, and hanging lights. Holiday traditions take us back to a time in our childhoods full of warmth, love, and security and we love to rekindle those feelings.

The tradition of gift giving is an expression of kindness associated with this season; friendliness, love and charity seem more apparent during the holidays and gift giving is a natural expression of those feelings. Whether few and simple or abundant, gifts express your spirit of warmth and affection to family and friends. Here is a selection of gift ideas to consider for anyone you hold dear.

The weeks leading up to Christmas are full of parties for groups, for business, friends, and family. A gracious guest takes a small gift for the party's host or hostess.

Hostess gifts that are easily carried, make a good presentation, and will be used include: a melamine cheeseboard in rich holiday red and gold topped with a seasonal flour sack tea towel.



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A French soap with its garden fresh fragrance and moisturizing Shea butter is always appreciated. We like to pair soaps with a color coordinated original hand made ceramic soap dish by Mike Paluska. Individual soaps make good stocking stuffers as well.



A bottle of wine will make a better presentation dressed to go to a party in a holiday wine bag. Choose from appealing images illustrated by California artist Mary Lake Thompson, from an appetizing wine or cheese still life to a vintage Christmas tree or the glad tidings Santa Claus. There are coordinating tea towels.

With a variety of vintage holiday motifs from holiday birds to a tree of doves, or good tidings Santa, these beautifully boxed sets of 12 holiday theme coasters make an easy to give hostess gift and can be put to use on the spot.



Perhaps you are the one doing the entertaining. If so, you will likely want to add a few last minute pre-party holiday accent pieces. A festive new holiday doormat at the front door will be there first to greet your guests.



We have brought the indoors out, but recently we have noticed several nationally renowned interior decorators using cast stone urns indoors on buffets and consoles, tables and bookshelves in bedrooms, dining rooms, and entries.

A pair of well made urns lends a feeling of antiquity and solidity to a room. They can be filled with an array of flora and fauna, from weathered deer antlers and branches, to gazing balls, Christmas ornaments, silks gleaming by candlelight, or live topiaries and lush green moss.



A simple small cast stone or glazed urn filled with a moss sphere will look well paired with a small cast stone statue on stacked books on an ottoman, table, or mantel. A sprig of live holly or a swirl of red ribbon would add seasonal interest. It is just a matter of consciously trying to use unexpected (or less predictable) pieces indoors; your home will be much more interesting and it is nice to have part of the garden indoors throughout bleak winter days.



Appearing to be fine needlepoint or tapestry heir-



looms (and now they can be), these generous 20" x 20" Christmas pillows are for **use outdoors**. Their covers zip off for laundering. Edged with thick fringe, filled with ultra soft faux down (polyester), they are made with Sunbrella yarns, adding long lasting richness to any traditional holiday décor indoors on the sofa or outside on the porch bench. Pillows in coordinating solid colors can be ordered and will ship quickly. We have suggested that they add a coordinating pillow to their Christmas collection each year to spread their tasteful style and ambiance throughout the home and garden.

Finding small affordable gifts for group ex-



changes and office co-workers can sometimes involve a long search. A bar of quad milled French soap is often the perfect answer. A

small personal luxury, they are deliciously fragrant and long lasting.



Our hummingbird feeders are very popular gifts. Hand blown from recycled glass in vibrant colors to attract hummingbirds, choose from small colorful balls or tall graceful cylinders with etched designs. The humming-

birds will love you, too.

A pewter salt cellar is like culinary jewelry. The designers handcraft each piece to touch the heart



and delight the spirit; to that end they contribute 10% of profits to charitable groups such as the Nature Conservancy and The Hunger Project. A pinch of salt (how cute would it be with grey or pink sea salt) or cayenne is stylishly within reach and undoubtedly will enhance the user's cooking skills.



A friend who loves birds and gardening will cherish a petite hand made cast stone bird bath. The small bird statues can be used indoors or in the garden, making lovely little accents in or near bird baths, in container plantings, and throughout the garden.



An ideal couple's gift is a two-piece glazed terra-cotta bird-bath with an easy twist-and-lock top, new from Campania. They are available in several styles; shown here is the Trellis Weave. Colors shown are: linen sky, Riviera blue, and spring green.

The perfect complement to a bird related gift, or a good gift on its own, the Compact Guide to Oklahoma Birds is a handy reference to identify the birds seen in your bird baths and around your garden. Once you start identifying birds in your garden, you will become more aware and appreciative of the nature around you.





Individually or together as a grouping, these 14.5" hand made cast stone figures will easily adorn any setting, indoors or outside, lending at atmosphere of tranquility. A little known fact about St. Fiacre: he is the patron saint of gardening and taxi cab drivers.

A popular gift suitable for a family, a couple, or someone who has everything, these steel cross stakes are made by local artisans. In a variety of sizes and styles: Celtic, fleur de lis, and ornate. Place them in the flower bed, a large container, or as a focal point in any visible area.



Windchimes are a lovely gift to receive. We have found high quality, hand tuned Windchimes that are proudly made in the USA. Because they are hand tuned, their sounds produce beautiful random melodies, not untuned clattering. Once you hear them softly chiming, you will

realize how much they contribute to the pleasant, tranquil ambiance of the garden.

Give a gift that will last a lifetime and is symbolic of a love of animals and gardening. We have many darling small statues such as ladybugs, cute frogs and turtles, adorable mice, realistic ducks and geese, bunnies, along with precious kittens, cats, and dogs.



Rain chains are very popular gifts. Virtually every customer who receives or purchases a rain chain returns with rave reviews about how much they enjoy having them. In stock are double links, umbrellas, fish, and two styles of flowers,

one with the unique watering can leader; all in gleaming polished copper. Easy to install.

Another favorite gift to give or receive is the hammock swing chair. Of weather resistant machine washable polyester, they are decorative as well as comfortable.

Available in a rainbow of colorful patterns, they can be easily hung from a sturdy tree branch or beam. These are ideal for spending leisure hours reading or bird watching.





The timeless favorite winter fragrance, Spicy Apple, is available in generous 200 hour botanical beeswax blend candles and reed diffusers. Natural elements are imbedded in the candle's outer wall and the center well burns down the middle leaving the outer wall intact. These are perfect for corporate or couple's gifts, and delightful to own. They make a lovely, fragrant focal point.



These are two of our favorite tools that we use every time we are in the garden. The hand rake measures 19" overall; its tine span is 4" making it ideal for reaching between plants without disturbing their foliage and blossoms. The Joyce Chen scissors are a pleasure to use; they deadhead with surgical precision, making for a healthy garden. The floral infusion gloves are lightweight, easy to wear, and fashionable. If you know a gardener, they will use these continuously.

DECEMBER TO DO LIST

- Order annual seeds or organize the ones you have.
- Plant fruit trees, roses, and other trees.
- Mulch herbs if the weather gets cold.
- Plant daffodil and tulip bulbs.
- Cut back on watering and fertilizing house plants. Water when dry to the touch, fertilize in March.
- Use citrus fruits and garden findings such as rose hips and pine cones to decorate your home.
- Lightly trim magnolias, hollies, and other evergreens for indoor decorating.
- December 21 is the winter solstice; each day afterwards is a little longer!
- Make your list and check it twice.
- **Shop local, shop small!**



EXTERIOR DECORATING

Give yourself or someone else a garden retreat, or update an existing one. Wilshire Garden Market provides exterior decorating consultation service. By appointment, for a fee, we will make a consultation visit and written suggestions to make your garden retreat more charming, cohesive, and useful. Call the store, 879-1121, to make an appointment.



Let us help you create your outdoor living room!

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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