

Fun stocking stuffers for grown-ups

by Jennifer Plantier

In his hurry to fulfill the wishes of all the world's children, Santa may skip the stockings of the grown-ups you know and love. That doesn't mean you have to. Bring back memories of fun holiday surprises with a stocking full of whimsical gifts and treats.

Start with goodies like apples or oranges, nuts in the shell and homemade or store-bought candies that are well wrapped so they don't end up melted all over the inside.

For practical reasons, you may want to consider some accessories to gifts the individual has already received: batteries for a compact-disk player, film for a camera or disks for the family computer, for example.

Finally, tuck one or two special gifts way down inside so it takes awhile to find them.

Make sure to include something that will make them smile, and stand close by when they dump everything out so you can catch their reaction.

GIFTS GALORE

Fun-lovers of all ages will appreciate casual wear with a sense of their particular style. Rest assured that it won't be hard to find the perfect T-shirt for any taste this holiday season.

Athletic apparel companies like Nike, Reebok and Champion offer countless branded options for sports-minded individuals, while lifestyle T's like those from No Fear, Quicksilver,

Coed Naked Sportswear and others have jumped on the "graphic verbiage" bandwagon. That is, they use clever, catchy or funny phrases to reflect a certain attitude.

Well-known artists will contribute beautifully rendered styles for nature and animal lovers. T-Shirts of Florida features a line of shirts depicting living creatures like marine animals, lions, wolves and water fowl in their natural environment.

Also popular this season are flannel and cotton boxers in lots of prints and colors — for both men and women.

Novelty ties, like those from Ralph Marlin's lines of Pink Floyd, Rolling Stones and sports team-licensed neck wear, will surely excite a man with a favorite team, an appreciation for rock 'n' roll or at least a sense of humor.

For women, a classy scarf (with a clasp or Aroolu Scarf Shaper), belt or other fashion accessory may be just the thing they need to pick up a tired wardrobe. Peruse department and specialty stores for other ideas along this line.

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Playing Santa: Even grown-ups hang stockings by the fire with the greatest of care -- in anticipation of goodies

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