

Ideal gifts for the mature recipient

by Sharon Williams

When it comes to choosing a holiday gift for Grandma, Grandpa and other mature relatives or friends, it seems even Santa himself would be stumped.

In some cases, it's hard to know what to put under the tree when they already own everything under the sun. In other scenarios, grandparents downsizing to a smaller living space don't want to acquire a surplus of goods over the holidays.

Still, they needn't and shouldn't go without just because of a lack of obvious choices. Instead, choosing a gift for someone in his or her golden years should be very much like finding the perfect presents for everyone else on your gift list.

Simply put, the giver needs to consider the lifestyle and personality of the person, according to instructor JoAnn Newman, and doctoral student Elaine McHugh of Texas Woman's University in Denton. Both are experienced in working with the elderly and disabled.

"We tend to think of older people as just being old, as if they were no longer the people we knew," says Newman. "In some cases, they have changed, but many times they aren't that different from when they were younger. Stop and think about the person and what they enjoyed in the past."

Both women agree that time and transportation are among the gifts most appreciated during this time of year.

Examples might include "gifts" in the form of shopping or errands, addressing and mailing holiday cards or letters, wrapping and delivering or mailing presents, outings for holiday activities, religious services, the theater or a movie, an invitation to lunch or dinner or an evening ride to look at Christmas lights.

Another idea that would be much appreciated, say Newman and McHugh, comes in the form of a holiday party or get-together.

Such gatherings are particularly enjoyable for some mature adults because they offer up an opportunity to reminisce about past holidays and provide some new memories to cherish. It's especially important that the guest of honor be included in the fun of planning and preparing the event.

Other top gift ideas for mature friends and relatives include:

- **Something warm and cozy.** Comfort clothing is a hot choice right now for every age group, and the senior set is no exception. Consider warm, soft garments such as flannel shirts and pajamas, thick cotton sweaters, fur-lined slippers with nonskid soles, thermal underwear, knit caps and mittens — even flannel bedding.

- **Paper chase.** Make correspondence a cinch with gifts of stationery. Fill a basket with large-sheet paper, envelopes, felt-tip pens and a roll of stamps, create personalized stationery designed especially for the recipient with stamps and ink pads, or fill a pretty box with self-adhesive notes, postcards and memo pads for short messages and reminders.

- **Great reads.** Grandma might never indulge herself with the latest best seller or hottest new cookbook on the market — but that doesn't mean you can't.

Other possibilities include large-print books for easy reading, magazine subscriptions and books on tape. Or simplify the reading process with a simple magnifying glass, lighted magnifying glass that clamps to a table top or reading glasses.

- **At your service.** A mature friend who can't fit one more object into his or her abode might delight in a gift certificate or tickets to a desired event instead.


Consider certificates redeemable for groceries, restaurant meals, manicures, facials, haircuts and stylings, make-overs, maid service or out-of-town hotel accommodations at a desired destination, or tickets for a sporting event, the opera, ballet or symphony.

A more elaborate gift could come in the form of round-trip airline tickets to see far-flung friends and family.

- **Gifts of food.** Tempting treats abound during the holidays and often are ideal gifts for those who entertain often, or who especially enjoy pleasures of the palate.

Among the tasty options are fruit baskets, bottles of wine or champagne, chocolates galore, exotic coffees, teas and hot chocolate mixes in a mug, honey and jam,

See MATURE, page 14




Pre-Christmas Specials

6 DAYS ONLY
December 8, 9, 10,
11, 12, 13


Thursday 9:30 to 9:00	Friday 9:30 to 6:00
Saturday 9:30 to 6:00	Sunday 9:30 to 5:00
	Monday 9:30 to 5:45
	Tuesday 9:30 to 5:45
	Wednesday 9:30 to 5:45

CASHMERE TOPCOATS



Practically all sizes. Camel, Navy, Black & Grey. Reg. \$325 now **\$199**

SPORTCOATS*



Reg. \$345 now **\$169**
*Alterations at cost

SUITS*

Reg. \$485	now \$239
Reg. \$510	now \$249
Reg. \$545	now \$269

Sizes up to 54 Reg., Long & Extra Long
*Alterations at cost

RAINCOATS

Single Breasted, Zip Lined
Reg. \$185 now **\$109**

Double Breasted, Zip Lined
Reg. \$200 now **\$119**

Gift Suggestions

COOGI Sweaters	BOBBY JONES Golf Shirts
ST. CROIX Sport Shirts	Sweater
Sweaters	Slacks

Special Group

Jogging Suits
\$69

HARRY SOLOMON

The Latest Styles In The Best Of Taste

Bloomfield Hills, MI Phone 626-9810 Bloomfield Plaza, Telegraph at Maple