

INTERIOR DESIGN

Take heart with these romantic gifts

Here are a few lovely gift ideas for your valentine that feature heart shapes or designs.

Jacobson's carries heart-shaped paperweights created from recycled glass from the north coast of California. They come in aqua, cobalt and copper; costs are \$20 for the small heart, \$30 for the large.

Show your devotion with a red crystal heart-shaped vase by Salvati, also available at Jacobson's. The vase retails for \$250.

A handpainted bowl by Kosta Boda is great for entertaining

and makes a perfect decoration, too. The original design features an array of hearts on a backdrop of frosted glass. The bowl is \$135 at Jacobson's.

For all valentine romantics, La Belle Provence, 185 W. Maple in Birmingham, features Heart on a String valentine sachets that add a touch of elegance and fragrance to any room.

The sachets, \$35 each, are available in solid red and other designs and colors.

La Belle Provence also carries heart-shaped porcelain boxes by

Limoges with miniature porcelain chocolates or flowers.

Capture that romantic moment forever with a silver heart textured or dangling heart silver frame, \$18, from Imelda's Closet, 123 W. Maple in Birmingham.

Also at Imelda's Closet are lavender-filled sachets in hand-crafted white lace with heart motif, \$12 each.

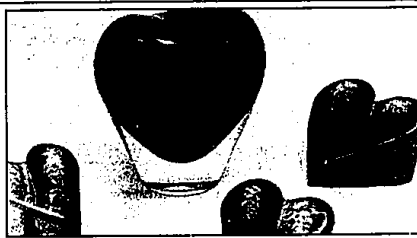
Enjoy the beauty of Valentine's Day year-round with a red toilet

brush with gold edging and cherry ribbon bow, and whimsical

newsprint inside, \$28 at Festivities, 377 Hamilton Row.

Other "hearty" items at the Birmingham store include a handcrafted porcelain heart ornament with intricate design, by the mother-and-daughter team of Colile and Moly Hoover, \$14; handcrafted felt ornaments by Festivities, \$14.25 for a quilted "Friends Forever" heart with satin rose, \$6.75 for an angel with flower motif; and heart-shaped "Have a Heart Seasonal Suds" scented soaps in tangerine, coconut and cherry, \$4.50.

Apple Tree Room, 32749 Franklin Road in Franklin, features Brighton candles.



A heart time: Jacobson's carries heart-shaped paperweights created from recycled glass from the north coast of California.

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Katie Brown shares decorating ideas

BY MARY KLEMIC
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Katie Brown was happy.

The former host of *Next Door with Katie Brown* on the Lifetime channel was at the Jo-Ann etc store in Auburn Hills Saturday afternoon, sharing a few ideas on creative party decorating from her book, *Katie Brown Entertains*.

Her cheery demeanor and cheerleader manner made it apparent that she likes what she does and where she was doing it then.

"It's good to be home, back in Michigan where people look you in the eye and smile," said Brown, who grew up in Potosky and now lives in Los Angeles and New York.

"I have a good job," she said later.

"I get to do things that make life a little bit better."

Brown, 37, has been featured in national publications — including *People* (which called her "TV's ment-and-potatoes Martha Stewart"), *The Wall Street Journal* and *Ladies' Home Journal* — and on national TV programs — including *Oprah*, *The Today Show* and *Good Morning America*.

Beginning this fall, she will host shows on HGTV and The Food Network.



Katie Brown

At Jo-Ann etc, Brown shared ideas for Valentine's Day from her "Romance in the Morning" chapter.

"I'm bored with chocolates and hearts," she said of the holiday. "You gotta do something different."

Among her ideas for something different were making a place mat made by pressing fresh flowers in a frame with a clear plastic (not glass) top. She likes using gerbera daisies best for this; they go the flattest and have bright, bold colors.

Brown also strung beads from costume jewelry on wires and attached them to silverware handles or formed them into

napkin rings.

For a party dressed in "industrial chic," Brown covered small cork plant liners with silver tacks to make coasters and larger ones with thin sheet metal (that could be cut with a scissors) to make place mats.

For a children's party, Brown made a centerpiece featuring pinwheels in terra cotta pots filled with sugar and jelly beans. Each place mat was made of four rulers glued together to form a rectangle or square, with colorful ribbons tied around each corner. Ice cream could be served in clear glass bowls glued onto toy cars.

Brown took questions from the audience. They included:

■ What window treatment can be done for such elements as sliding glass doors or French doors? Brown suggested putting rods at the top and bottom and fabric between them; the rods could be turned away from the glass as needed.

■ Any ideas for a Kentucky Derby party, besides serving mint juleps? Among Brown's suggestions were making copies

of photos of past Derby winners and decoupageing them onto wooden trays.

■ What about a bachelorette party? One of Brown's ideas was to have each guest write up a story about the honoree and put them in a scrapbook. At the party, everybody would read their story.

■ Any ideas for a shower in March? Brown suggested dipping bottles in bright marine paint, grouping three together and securing them with wire to make a centerpiece that guests could take home. This is featured in the book.

In response to other questions from the audience, Brown said she was speaking to people about starting her own magazine and her own Web site (she is now on the Lifetime Web site: www.lifetime.com).

Brown told the group how her mother got the children in the family started on creative projects with supplies from stores like Jo-Ann etc. As an adult, Brown is constantly finding inspiration.

At dinner the previous day, Brown's father asked her about running out of ideas; she assured him that wouldn't happen, she said.

"I said, 'I see five ideas on the table and I'm going to take all of them.'"

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