

SPORTS
Sharks' win streak ends at nine

OILERS 3, SHARKS 2 (OT)

AMERICA'S TIME

HOLIDAY PRESENTS THAT EVOKE NATION'S SPIRIT | LIFESTYLE
PLUS: GIFTS FOR GLOBE-TROTTERS | TRAVEL



San Jose Mercury News

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LIFESTYLE

A MESSAGE TO EARTH PAGE 3

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100 SECTION D



Tell us what you have... **discovered!** In Silicon Valley, about yourself, along your travels. Finish this sentence and send it to discover@mercurynews.com. "Recently, I discovered..."

... the pure love and joy of a puppy. We adopted a golden retriever puppy this year, and it's been a blast. You find out all the things that are just so fascinating to a puppy. Shoes, plants, newspaper — especially the Mercury News — are all so tasty.

Cheryl Causey,
San Jose

... that the truly forgotten ones are our elderly citizens, regardless of their medical condition, socioeconomic status or character. At Mom's Sunnyvale nursing facility, 90 percent of the residents have no regular visitors to love and advocate for them. However, family will always show up for the inheritance!

Janice Dittrich Winkel,
San Jose

... that it's still worth dreaming, and magical moments happen daily. It all depends on your attitude. Circumstances may change, but we don't have to. I discovered that my life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it.

Marilyn Longo Dodds,
Scotts Valley

We will showcase our favorites in print and online. To be considered, entries must not exceed 50 words, and include your full name and city.

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things to do today

Our ideas, Page 2

Gifts in the American tradition

THIS HOLIDAY, PICK OUT PRESENTS THAT EVOKE THE SPIRIT OF OUR NATION

By Donna Kato
Mercury News

It's a convergence that rarely happens: the spirit of the holidays dovetailing with a season of patriotic spirit. While we're not advocating flags and fireworks as gifts, we think this might be the year to be inspired by ideas that either evoke Americana or have a history in our country.

While there are plenty of items that could fall into the all-American

gifting category, we picked out a few that might encourage you to be creative on your own. Some of these gifts are made by longtime companies that have become American institutions. Some are iconic pieces of American history. Others are quintessentially linked to our culture.

Contact Donna Kato at (408) 920-5203 or dkato@mercurynews.com.



Coach "Madison Sabrina" satchel, \$498, Coach stores, coach.com, select Nordstrom stores.

■ Coach was established in 1941, a family business founded in New York City. Its durable, well-crafted leather handbags were inspired by another American icon: the baseball glove. The company's most influential designer whose style is still reflected in the bags was Fresno native Bonnie Cashin.



Lucky Brand watch, \$95, select Macy's stores.



Obama Inaugural Edition tote bag, handmade in Burlington, Vt., by Flashbags, large bag is \$78, medium bag is \$68, flashbagsonline.com.

■ We can't help but be hopeful this time of year. For stronger family bonds, for a better new year, for the start of a successful new presidency. Which is why we thought the presidential inaugural tote by Flashbags especially clever. The company was founded about three years ago by Ali Marchildon and Laura Cheney, two teachers in Burlington, Vt., who made custom tote bags from laminated paper on a home sewing machine. More than fashion bags, they've become message bags, "flashing" front-page news and causes as well as personal artwork and photos.

■ Lucky Brand Jeans officially started in 1990, but its founders, Gene Montesano and Barry Periman, had long been part of the rock 'n' roll and hippie counterculture movements. Still inspired by California's free spirit vibe of that time, their Lucky Brand accessories line reflects that bygone era with peace sign watches and jewelry, mood rings and Beatles charm bracelets.



LaCoste stretch polo shirts for women in new colors, \$79.50 each, LaCoste stores, Macy's, Bloomingdale's.

■ The polo shirt was the sartorial symbol of an era in our culture when preppy was the definition of all-American style. Only the alligator logo LaCoste Izod would do for true preppies. LaCoste is actually a French company, founded in 1933. It licensed the name to American company Izod in the 1950s, and the brand became known in the United States as LaCoste Izod. It became ubiquitous in the late 1970s and is the signature brand mentioned in Lisa Birnbach's "The Official Preppy Handbook," published in 1980.

■ Kiehl's, primarily known now for its straightforward approach to beauty and grooming products, started as a family-owned New York City apothecary in 1851. From its location in the East Village, Kiehl's offered pharmaceutical tonics and medicinal salves made from natural ingredients. Although the company changed hands from the original owner, its tradition of incorporating herbal and medicinal ingredients remained. Some of Kiehl's signature products are part of the Smithsonian Institution's permanent archive.



Kiehl's gift box with some of the company's most iconic and bestselling products: Blue Astringent Herbal Lotion, \$15 for 8.4 ounces. Lip Balm No. 1 with spf 4, \$6.50 for 0.5 ounces. Creme de Corps body cream, \$16.50 for 4.2 ounces. Creamy Eye Treatment with Avocado, \$24.50 for 0.5 ounces. Ultra Facial Moisturizer for all skin types, \$15.50 for 2.5 ounces. Abyssine Cream with SPF 23, \$45 for 1.7 ounces. Ultimate Strength Hand Salve, \$12.50 for 2.5 ounces.



Tips for greener holiday entertaining

Over the past year, you've logged fewer miles in the car, recycled more consistently and switched to fluorescent light bulbs. You've installed a programmable thermostat, and when that old appliance gave out, you bought an Energy Star replacement. So why not make this year's holiday party Earth-friendlier than 2007's, without sacrificing beauty or convenience?

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