

That Perfect Gift

Gifts — some we buy, some we make and some we receive. What is the oddest gift you ever received? For me, it was a fake fur thingy that was supposed to go on a collar (I think). I'm really not sure what you call it or where you find such a gift, but I became the proud owner of such a thingy one Christmas. The giver was not present on Christmas morning, so my family and I laughed while we tried to figure out what it was and its intended purpose. I know people say it's the thought that counts, but in my opinion sometimes the thought process is hijacked. What I really love is looking back at all the hand-made gifts my babies have made me through the years. The doily with the school photo stuck in the middle, the paper plate ornament that is really too big for the tree and the hand-painted Popsicle stick frames are my treasures. Every year the kids try to hide the ones that contain embarrassing photos, but to no avail.



PHELAN M. EBENHACK

There have been some interesting gifts given throughout history. The King of Rock 'n Roll Elvis Presley's habit of gifting Cadillacs is a known fact. He gave Cadillacs to friends, family, business associates, bodyguards, backup singers and many others. In 1975 alone, he gave away as many as 14 cars, including one to a complete stranger. During his stint at the White House, President Gerald Ford received an eagle made of beer cans in 1976, gifted to him by the Kentucky Cub Scout group to celebrate America's bicentennial. It became so famous that later it was part of a Presidential gift exhibit that traveled the presidential library circuit.

So maybe not a bird made out of metal, but hand-crafted gifts are still my favorite and live quite nicely alongside my homemade gems. In our holiday gift guide (pg. 17), you'll find great ideas for those on your list who love unique items. Everything from performance tickets to jewelry can be found. Hopefully, sans the fur and the ambiguity. While enjoying the talents of crafters and performers, you will also be supporting our cultural community that unfortunately sustained damage, in some cases substantial, during hurricane Irma. With each purchase, you will assist the arts organizations in rebuilding and repairing. Happy shopping and Happy New Year!

Cindy Bowman LaFronz
Editor
Orlando Arts Magazine

It's Christmas

AT BOK TOWER GARDENS

BOK TOWER
GARDENS
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Merry & Bright

Nov. 24 thru Jan. 7, 10am - 5pm
Holiday Home Tour at Pinewood Estate
\$24/adult, \$12/child (ages 5-12)

Sunset & Symphony Holiday Concert

December 2 @ 6:00 p.m.
w/ Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
\$25/adult (advance), \$10/child (ages 5-12)

www.boktowergardens.org/christmas

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