

# Island offers a treasure trove of no-hassle holiday gifts

By Eileen M. Daly

If the sound of jingle bells and the sparkle of Christmas lights makes you cringe with dread in anticipation of another hectic shopping season, worry no more. You can take care of everyone on your list without ever venturing near a crowded mall, standing in a mile-long line or circling a parking lot for hours. Shop these local jewels and find fabulous gifts:

Begin at **Jamestown Hardware** on Narragansett Avenue, where you'll find everything you need to set a festive Christmas scene. Grab a fire starter and some Duraflame logs to start a crackling fire. Choose a Christmas tree, some lights, garland, hooks and even one-of-a-kind blown glass ornaments. You can also grab a turkey fryer, or even purchase power tools, a Weber grill or a gift certificate for that hard-to-buy-for man on your list. Owner Scott Sherman extends a warm welcome to "stop by for some great customer service."

A short walk up Narragansett Avenue brings you to **Jamestown Designs**, where owners Deborah Swistak and Carol Anderson will help you find the perfect holiday present from their unique selection of gifts with island flair. Books and artwork by local authors and artists abound; you'll find everything from a cookbook by a local author to photographs, pastels, prints and oil paintings by well-known local artists. Jamestown Designs is proud to feature Jamestown's own Louie Award-winning artist, Shirley Bell, whose dragonfly Christmas tree design recently won in the "rising star" category of the international greeting card competition.

The selection of jewelry offered at Jamestown Designs includes the Jamestown charm bracelet with lighthouse, windmill and seashells, as well as an assortment of earrings,

bracelets and necklaces made with everything from crystals to semi-precious stones. You'll also find plenty of gifts for the home or for that special hostess, including beautiful glass bowls that double as works of art, pottery, coasters and hotplates with a unique Jamestown flavor, along with glass, pewter and engravable ornaments. The blown glass wave or whimsical octopus are sure to be a hit with anyone who loves the sea.

Cross the street to the **Conanicut Marine Ship's Store** on Narragansett Avenue and you'll find a wide selection of clothing and shoes from brand names like Northface, Woolrich, Keen and Sperry Topsider. You'll also find a variety of smaller gift items, including jewelry, hats, gloves and nautical books. The Ship's Store is known among nautical circles as the best place to find everything one could imagine for that boater on your gift list. It's heaven for the yachting enthusiasts! Best of all are the holiday sale prices offered by owner Steve Munger for the entire month of December.

A quick dash back down to East Ferry Wharf lets you find everything you need for your holiday party at **Grapes and Gourmet**. Browse cases filled with specialty cheeses, pates, sausages, specialty sauces, vinegars and mustards, as well as shelves of crackers, chocolates, jams, chutneys, Wicked Natural and Venda Ravioli products. Grapes and Gourmet offers more than 500 wines, an assortment of microbrews, imported and domestic beers, as well as a variety of spirits. Special holiday beers are also available, and Grapes and Gourmet's highly trained staff will help you find the perfect pairings of wine and spirits to complement your dishes and help you plan for your social event.

Grapes and Gourmet also offers a selection of fine cigars, bar sets, sake sets and even a fondue set. A variety of cheese platters, party platters and gift baskets can be made to order.

Stroll across the island to **The Secret Garden** on Southwest Avenue to find a winter wonderland of gift ideas. You'll be greeted by scores of Willow Tree angels, Os-theimer wooden toys from Germany, hand-carved nativity scenes and enough fabulous ornaments to trim any Christmas tree. You'll also find glass ornaments and an amazing assortment of Santa Claus ornaments. A Santa lobsterman, complete with yellow slicker and a hand-held lobster, is the perfect gift for your favorite lobsterman. For more traditional holiday needs, you'll find plenty of beautiful poinsettias, along with Christmas wreaths, bouquets and holiday centerpieces.

If you're looking for unique, hand-made items, don't forget to check out the **Conanicut Island Art Association Holiday Craft Show**. This year, it will be held at Melrose School on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The show will feature local artists' wares including jewelry, custom-

