

# Holiday Shopping Field Survival Guide

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*Oh, the most wonderful time of the year is upon us again. The time for candy canes and holiday cheer, festive lights and cute reindeer, cookies and choirs and oh-my-gosh, there are only how many shopping days left before Christmas?*

*Ah— Christmas shopping. A time when we may find ourselves wandering for days, weeks even, hopped up on sugar-laden holiday treats, spurred by ever-increasing responsibilities, searching for the perfect gift. A gift that expresses our unique relationship with the recipient. A gift that speaks directly from our soul to the heart of another. A gift that is attractive and appropriate and that will be cherished for years to come— A priceless gift that comes in below budget, can be shipped and includes free wrapping. (Yes! I want it all and I want it for \$29.95!)*

*Well, with pressure like this, is it any wonder when we find ourselves on the brink, transfixed by the chasing light displays, taking a solemn oath (again) that next year, we will start early!*

*But for now, this year, some unique boutiques around town are available and ready to help us pull it all together.*

## Sally Huss Gallery

Sally Huss Gallery, located at 2725 Erie Avenue in Hyde Park, has a broad range of artistic gift items, both for children and adults. Whimsical and bright, the Gallery delights shoppers with fun, upbeat ideas. From "2 Grrrts" accessories to "Groovy Girls" dolls, from "Funny Friends" hanging décor to ceramic banks and nifty, too-cool enameled sink strainers; there is truly something for everyone at Sally Huss Gallery.

And everyone loves the framed inspirational art from the Gallery. With a variety of matte colors, ten different frames and a huge selection of encouraging maxims — over 500 — it's a gift that's as much fun to pick out as it is to give. Different pieces cover virtually every occupation and relationship, so it's easy to find just the right one.



## Worlds Apart

At 2651 Observatory, on the corner of Observatory and Edwards Road, Worlds Apart gives shoppers a world of opportunity to find contemporary women's apparel and accessories. Covering it all from the relaxed styles of Eileen Fisher and Joan Vass to the fashion-forward designs of Max Studio and Custo Barcelona, the word at Worlds Apart is fresh.

If you're looking for an up-to-the-minute gift for a style-conscious friend, or if you need a little something new for yourself, consider getting a bit wild with an animal influence. Leopard and zebra prints are hot, and everything is coming up leather. Leather pants, leather jackets, leather vests — leather's one thing you can't have enough of this season. What else is new? Brown. It's the new neutral.

## From the Ridiculous to the Sublime

Offering sophistication with humor and humor with heart, From the Ridiculous to the Sublime presents shoppers with a genuine one-of-a-kind boutique experience at 2030 Madison Road in Oakley. An eclectic array of crafted goods provides gift buyers the opportunity to choose gifts that are truly original. "Sticks" home accent pieces like chairs, tables, mirrors, candlesticks and lamps have all been hand carved and hand



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popular are pretty bath wraps and Lady Primrose's dusting silk. When you add a luxurious piece of sleepwear, you have a great gift that promises even greater enjoyment. Complimentary gift-wrap, bra fittings, shipping service and gift registry are always available at Knickers. And to help out the guys, Holiday Men's Night goes into full swing on December 21st, replete with beer, snacks and models!

## Intuitive

When you're trying to shop for the person who has everything, make tracks to Intuitive at 913 Vine Street, downtown. Picking from handcrafted gifts, home accessories, unique jewelry and works by local artists can help you check one more thing off your list. With an always-changing cache of merchandise, Intuitive offers gift-buyers a diverse selection of timeless pieces from which to choose.

While not traditional, Intuitive is not trendy, either. You can be sure that after the wrapping is shredded and the holidays pass, your gift will be well loved for years to come. Particularly popular this year are one-of-a-kind Christmas ornaments. Raku-crafted snowflakes and stars in a variety of metallic colors will add color to any tree, as well as become a tree-trimming tradition for the years to come. At Intuitive, you can find gifts to match any personality — intuitively.

## Soho

Located at 2757 Observatory, Soho is the place where anything goes and shoppers are encouraged to experiment. Women's apparel, jewelry, handbags, hair accessories and evening gowns intended to accentuate and dazzle give shoppers fresh new ideas. Making a break from simplistic trends, formal gowns are on the forefront. Something more than the little black dress, styles are embellished and feature beads, sequins and fine detail. And jewel tones — sapphire blue, ruby red, emerald green — provide even more options.

Shoppers are reminded to keep the sizes and favorite colors of their gift recipients in mind, and to be unafraid to choose something they'd like to see their loved ones wear. Betsy Johnson, Shoshanna and French Connection all offer high-quality pieces that put a good twist on basics through texture and color. And everything at Soho is designed to help women make a focused statement. You know the one — focus on me!

So, here are some good ideas to get you started. Make your list, check it twice— And always remember to treat yourself, too. Still to come next month are even more shops to the rescue!

painted. "Sticks" and delicate hand blown glass Christmas ornaments make any tree special.

But among the art prints, crafted purses, hats and home décor, shoppers find what From the Ridiculous to the Sublime is most noted for: the inventive jewelry creations of owners Karen Kaplan and Lisa Heath. Semi-precious stones, vintage Swarovski crystal and sterling silver come together harmoniously, emerging as individual works of art. For loved ones on your list who adore unique beauty, a piece of From the Ridiculous to the Sublime jewelry is the answer.

## Knickers

If you're looking for luxury, look no further than Knickers, 2726 Erie Avenue in Hyde Park. French-milled soaps, candles and creams, dusting powder, lotions and fabulous lingerie are the gifts of her dreams. (And his!) A feel-good, "girlfriend" kind of shop, Knickers has plenty of choices, whether you're choosing a gift for your best friend, a party hostess or just pampering yourself after a hard day shopping.

Cotton, silk and stretch lace are found in a variety of lingerie and sleepwear styles from designers like Claire Pettibonne, Crabtree and Evelyn, Anne Lewin and Mary Green. Especially