

Holiday Gift-Giving ***"Food for Thought" . . .***

By Jody Adams
In Its Place



Gifts don't always have to be things that you wear or that sit on a shelf. They can be "consumables" and experiences that enhance the lives of your recipients without becoming post-holiday clutter. If you're stumped about what to give the special people in your life, think outside the (gift) box.

For your favorite movie buffs, coupons for their favorite movie theater or a subscription to an online or local DVD rental company can be just the ticket. If some of your recipients love music or theatre, why not get them tickets to performances at their local entertainment or cultural venues or universities. Food lovers won't pass on gift certificates to their favorite restaurants, and those who love to cook will delight in a gift basket containing ingredients for their favorite types of meals.

Give far-away loved ones home-made certificates good toward round-trip train or plane tickets so they can visit you in the new year. And if your recipients really do "have everything," consider giving a contribution to their favorite charitable organization or community agency, or making a home-made coupon for your recipient "redeemable" for a few hours of your time volunteering alongside them.

A little thought and creativity can truly make it "better to give than to receive." And sometimes giving of yourself is the best gift of all.