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## HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE; Items with a Boston theme make wicked cool presents:[All Editions]

Cindy Atoji. **Boston Herald**. Boston, Mass.: Dec 18, 2003. pg. 061

**Full Text** (895 words)

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You're a real Bostonian if . . .

- You think there's only 25 letters in the alphabet (no R).
- You think using your turn signal is a sign of weakness.
- Your favorite adjective is "wicked."
- You think 63-degree ocean water is warm.

It takes a lot to survive Boston. There's the clogged arteries (the highway kind); the second most expensive real estate in the nation; snobby Brahmin neighbors; the Red Sox (need we say more?); and a distinct lack of parking.

But there must be a reason more than 12 million tourists flock to Boston each year. During this drab New England winter, when weary Hublubbers see more headlights than Christmas lights, we hope our "wrap up Boston for the holidays" guide reminds gift givers - and receivers - what makes this city and its burbs so special. These close-to-home items have that hometown feeling you just can't get from generic mall gifts.

Love 'em or hate 'em, where else but in the Boston area can you find:

- The Kennedy dynasty: Recall historical moments with a talking president bobble-head. Tap John F. Kennedy on the head, and he nods and intones part of his presidential inaugural speech from Jan. 20, 1961, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." (\$24.99, [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).)
- Harvard crusaders: Greg Halpern has been photographing Harvard University's lowest-paid service workers - custodians, security guards, and food service employees - while at the same time collecting candid interviews. His new book, "Harvard Works Because We Do" (Quantuck Lane Press), sheds light on the campus' "invisible people" and is a politically correct gift for your favorite intellectual. (\$30, [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).)
- Boston Beer Co.: The first batch of Samuel Adams Lager was brewed 20 years ago in founder Jim Koch's kitchen; today his company is credited with leading the microbrewery movement in Boston. The Samuel Adams Winter Classics 12-pack includes longtime favorites Boston Lager, Winter Lager, Cream Stout, and Light, as well as two specialty brews, Old Fezziwig spiced ale and Cranberry Lambic. (\$11.99, [www.samadams.com](http://www.samadams.com).)
- Fenway Park: What would Boston be without the Green Monster and the Curse of the Bambino? Hang up a miniature replica of Fenway Park, thanks to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute Jimmy Fund, another Boston institution. The collectible ornament is handcrafted and gold-plated, down to the bleacher seats. Proceeds support the fight against cancer. (\$19.99, [www.jimmyfund.org](http://www.jimmyfund.org).)
- Saugus Christmas lights: "North of Boston, that bastion of Yankee propriety, every year the Saugus neighborhood of Lynn Fells Parkway blazes up," writes David Seidman in "Holiday Lights" (Storey Publishing). His tome is a high-wattage gift book that includes electric photographs of over-the-top lighting extravaganzas. Seidman also recommends the Eileen Drive neighborhood in Braintree, Forest Park in Springfield and Carolina Road in Tewksbury. (\$16.95, [www.storey.com](http://www.storey.com).)
- Dancing Deer Baking Co.: Dancing Deer bakery started in a former pizza parlor on a busy Boston street corner. Today, located in a rehabilitated brick factory building, Dancing Deer draws its workforce largely from the surrounding inner city

neighborhoods of Boston. But its innovative business practices are overshadowed by such straight-up yummy treats as the Brandy Soaked Harvest cake, loaded with fruits and nuts and finished with orange liqueur. It's not your average fruitcake. (\$21.95, [www.dancingdeer.com](http://www.dancingdeer.com).)

- Lekker European-style home accessories: Just one of the many shops revitalizing the South End, exploring Lekker is like meandering through the streets and side roads of Europe. "Lekker," the Dutch word for enticing, carries Swedish trays and glassware, Italian candles, German stemware, and Italian flatware. (\$9.99 and up, [www.lekkerhome.com](http://www.lekkerhome.com).)

- Barefoot Books: If a vegetarian dragon had to pick a hometown, it would probably be progressive Cambridge. So it's only appropriate that Barefoot Books - with such multicultural titles as "Herb, the Vegetarian Dragon" - has hunkered down on Massachusetts Avenue. The independent publisher's only retail store or "research laboratory" is a cozy nook in Porter Square where kids and adults can discover politically progressive fairy tales. (\$5.99 and up, [www.barefootbooks.com](http://www.barefootbooks.com).)

- Blue Ginger, Salamander and more: Where else but Boston can you find Jody Adams of the Sapphire Restaurant Group, Stan Frankenthaler of Salamander, Gorden Hamersly of Hamersly Bistro, Andy Husbands of Rouge, Sister Sorel of Tremont 647, and Ming Tsai of Blue Ginger? They're all included in "Cooking from the Heart: 100 Great American Chefs Share Recipes They Cherish" (Broadway Books). The book includes heartwarming stories from these culinary dynamos. (\$29.95, [www.strength.org/books](http://www.strength.org/books).)

- Sandy Claus: Sandy Claus meets Santa Claus at the Best of Boston store in Faneuil Hall Marketplace, where lobster paraphernalia - mugs, T-shirts, salt and pepper shakers, plush - wear Santa hats. But "you won't find any tacky souvenirs," said manager Edwina Howard. Instead, look for regional New England food, Harbor Sweets candy, Boston Harbor lighthouse keepsakes, Big Dig books, and Cape Cod taffy. (\$3.99 and up, 617-227-3962.)

Still stumped? How about these few last gift ideas:

- Red Sox vs. Yankees chess with custom game board and 32 custom playing pieces. (\$39.95, [www.massbaytrading.com](http://www.massbaytrading.com).)

- The Boston City Tie with city plans printed on silk. (\$50, [www.architects.org](http://www.architects.org).)

- Legal Sea Foods holiday barbecue dinner. ([www.Legalseafoods.com](http://www.Legalseafoods.com).)

- Hot Sauce Harry's Boston Red Sox Ballpark Nacho Kit with piante salsa, hot sauce and nacho cheese. (\$19.99, [www.oshmans.com](http://www.oshmans.com).)

- Massachusetts lunch box with clam chowder, baked beans, lobster bisque, cranberry crackers and more. (\$45, [www.massbaytrading.com](http://www.massbaytrading.com).)

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Companies: Boston Red Sox (NAICS: 711211, Sic:7941 )

Section: *THE EDGE*

ISSN/ISBN: 07385854

Text Word Count 895