

# *The Gifted Giver*

BY JUDI ROTHENBERG

In light of the economy, it's tempting to say, "Let's skip presents this year." And sure, searching for the perfect gift can sometimes drive you crazy... but the ultimate reward of delighting a loved one makes even the most frustrating moment worthwhile.

# The Luxe Life



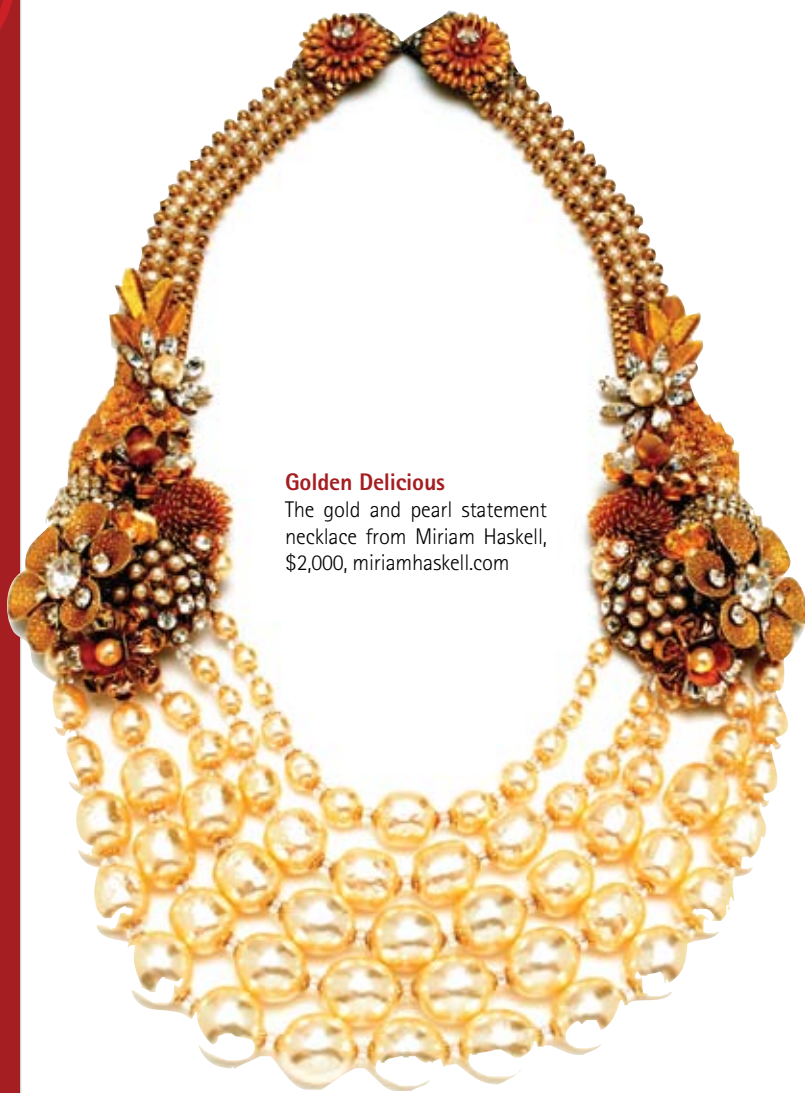
## Sparkle and Shine

Ruby, sapphire, and diamond stacking bands in 18k white, rose and yellow gold, \$3,000- \$10,050 each, [danielk.net](http://danielk.net)



## Louie, Louie, LOUIXS

The ultimate smoke for cigar aficionados, a Louixs cigar wrapped by hand in the rare Rosado leaf, \$50. [louixs.com](http://louixs.com)



## Golden Delicious

The gold and pearl statement necklace from Miriam Haskell, \$2,000, [miriamhaskell.com](http://miriamhaskell.com)



## Instant Gratification

Wine Chill Drops are the sleek, modern and most importantly, fast way to chill an individual glass of wine. \$50 for a set of two drops and two holders, [skybarhome.com](http://skybarhome.com)



## Bark Tie

Proper attire for the pooch, all dogs great and small can dress for the occasion in a custom leather and British plaid ribbon collar. \$35 and up, [aroundthecollar.com](http://aroundthecollar.com)



#### **Pink is the New Blue**

Sounds good, looks good...This Bluetooth headset is adorned with pink Swarovski crystals. \$48, [chicbuds.com](http://chicbuds.com)

# Star Tech

#### **Double Time**

No more guessing if you're in the picture — the Samsung DualView TL220 camera's 1½-inch front LCD screen can be activated for perfect self-portraits. The camera also has a 3-inch touch screen on the back, 12.2 mega-pixel resolution and a 4.6x optical zoom. About \$300, [samsung.com](http://samsung.com)



#### **Head Trip**

Nerve Pipes headphones have six different components you can customize with color, graphics and even faux fur. \$35, [ifrogz.com](http://ifrogz.com)



#### **I Spy**

The Eikon To-Go Digital Privacy Manager, a USB fingerprint reader, protects your passwords and makes your digital life a little easier, about \$50, [upek.com/eikon](http://upek.com/eikon)





### Crazy Mixed-Up Fun

Cheerful winter wear (\$25-\$50) from [littlemissmatched.com](http://littlemissmatched.com)



### Steady Freddy

These fine fellows are actually portable camera tripods. DigiDudes, \$25, [quirky.com](http://quirky.com)



### Game Night

Fact or fiction? You'll find out when you play the Weird New Jersey Trivia Game, \$30, [thegameshow.com/WNJ](http://thegameshow.com/WNJ). Part of the proceeds supports the work of Jersey Cares, an organization that links volunteers to service projects.



### KnitWits

Zany Knit character dolls, \$25, from [littlemissmatched.com](http://littlemissmatched.com)

# Playful Personality



#### Over the Moon

It's a blast to blast off in a cardboard rocket made from recycled and chemical-free cardboard. \$72, [cardboarddesign.com](http://cardboarddesign.com)

## Eco Edge

#### Make Love, Not Trash

Chic and socially conscious — black organic denim handbag is made with non-toxic trims and nickel-free hardware in an eco-friendly factory, \$150, [makelovenottrash.com](http://makelovenottrash.com)



#### Save a Tree

Never too young to care! Pack a lunch in these washable fabric bags. \$20, [ecobags.com](http://ecobags.com)

# The Humanitarian Spirit

*For those on your list who would rather give than receive...*

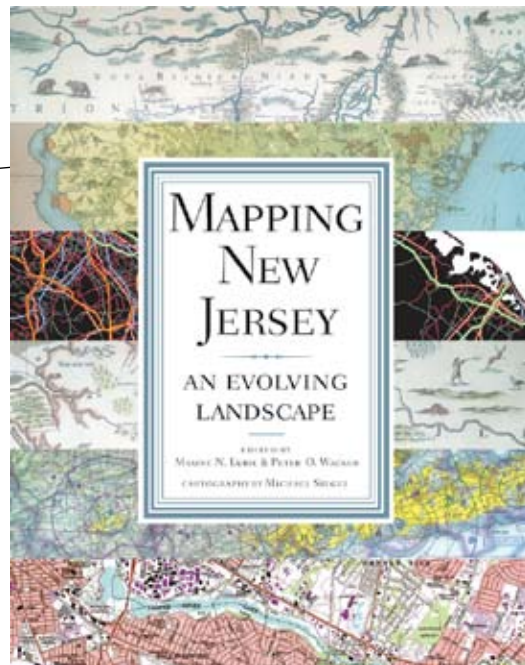
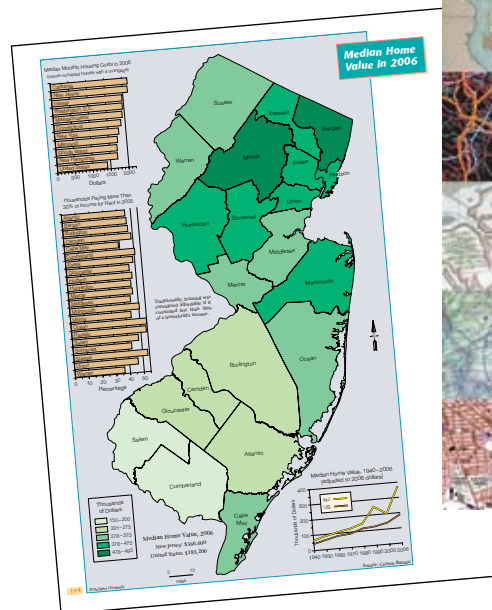
#### Mercy Kits

Assist in the issues and causes your recipient cares about — Mercy Kits tackle everything from worldwide children's health to funding loans for women entrepreneurs in central Asia. Available in a wide range of denominations from \$18 to \$2,500, [mercykits.org/mercykits](http://mercykits.org/mercykits)





# Book Tracks

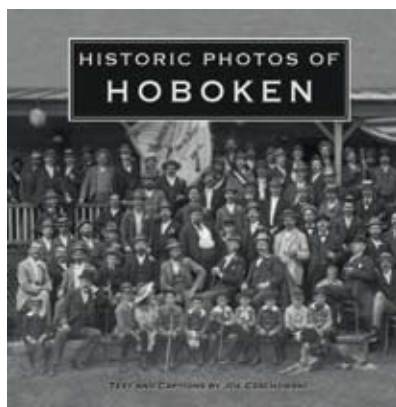
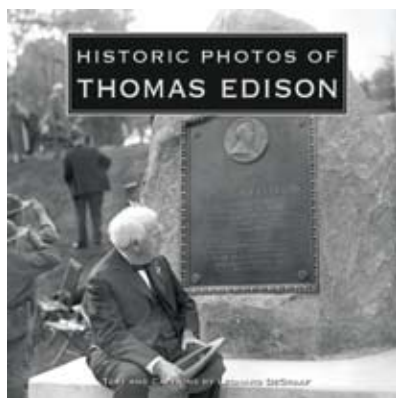


## On the Map

"Mapping New Jersey, An Evolving Landscape" is the state's first interpretive atlas in more than 100 years, says Rutgers University Press, which recently published this oversized sequel to the much-heralded "Encyclopedia of New Jersey."

More than you could ever imagine about the Garden State is there for viewing in lush, full-color maps, including farmland from the Civil War, population density and ethnicity, religious affiliations, forests, colleges, area codes, radon, rivers and reservoirs — even the railroads of 1860. With 225 color maps, photos, graphs and diagrams, \$39.95, [rutgerspress.rutgers.edu](http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu)

— T.E.I.



## Sentimental Journeys

The historic photo series by Turner Publishing answers such burning questions as: What animal was often in photos of Atlantic City visitors in the 1800s? Where was General Ulysses S. Grant's cottage on the Jersey Shore? What was Memorial Day formerly called and where did Thomas Edison work as a newspaper and candy vendor?

With about 200 rare black and white photos in each volume, these historic books are a trip well worth taking to celebrate the best of days gone by. (Answers: a donkey; Long Branch; Decoration Day and the Grand Trunk Railroad in Michigan.) \$39.95 each volume, [turnerpublishing.com](http://turnerpublishing.com)

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