

Your LIFE



LOCALS ON LIVING

Need some fashion inspiration? Follow Kasmira Oar's inspirations – complete with photos – on her blog What I Wore Today at Cincinnati.Com/Living. The blog chronicles what she wears each day to work in downtown Cincinnati.



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Useful, thoughtful gifts for Mom

By Amy Howell Hirt
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Of course mom might appreciate a piece of fine jewelry or designer clothing, but she also might want a Mother's Day gift that can be used every day. Those too, provide a mindful token of love. Here are a few pretty, functional ideas.



"Bella Travels" canvas Nook cover by Kate Spade New York

Good looking

Moms who read or listen to music to pass the time during soccer practice or violin lessons will appreciate an entertainment upgrade. Nook, the Barnes & Noble eBook reader, has 2 GB of memory and can hold up to 1,500 e-books, newspapers and magazines, as well as MP3s and audio books. Padded leather and canvas cases from Kate Spade New York have a molded bottom and elastic strap inside to stylishly protect the nook. The nook is \$259 and the covers are \$85-\$125 at Barnes & Noble stores and www.barnesandnoble.com.



Provided photos

The Brocade Desktop Collection from the Container Store

Pretty organized

Whether Mom works from home or handles the family finances, taking care of business at a desktop with attractive – and matching – accessories is a lot more appealing than facing manila folders and plastic trays. The Brocade Desktop Collection from the Container Store is made of stamped steel with a cut-out design and a white epoxy finish. \$4.99-\$39.99 at the Container Store and www.containerstore.com.



"Lady" bracelet by Swarovski

Casual elegance

Moms who reach for a silver chain over diamond earrings during the morning rush might enjoy dressing up their daywear. The crystal pavé entwined hearts on the "Lady" bracelet are classic Swarov-

ski, but the black cotton cord and simple design keep it down-to-earth. \$75 at the Swarovski boutique at Kenwood Towne Centre and www.swarovski.com.



JuiceBar Multi-Device Pocket Solar Charger

Juice on the road

Camping and long road trips can take a toll on technology-dependent families who find themselves off-the-grid. The JuiceBar Multi-Device Pocket Solar Charger allows moms to recharge whenever needed through a solar panel. It can also be charged via incandescent or fluorescent lights or a personal computer. One full charge provides up to 15 hours of music and up to one hour of talk time. The charger comes with a USB cable, DC cable and 12 connectors that fit most cell phones, MP3 players and portable gaming devices. \$42.83 at www.cableorganizer.com.



Hershey's Kiss "I Love Mom"

Sweet

The line of Hershey's Kiss pendants that have been spotted around the necks of several celebs includes a 3-D "I Love Mom" pendant. The sterling silver pendant with rhodium plating comes with a 20-inch chain. \$79.99 at Getz Jewelers, 8429 Beechmont Ave. in Anderson Township; and www.hersheyskissjewelry.com.

Mall vendors slash prices for mom's day

Last-minute shoppers need not settle for impersonal Mother's Day gifts. Kenwood Towne Centre and Tower Place Mall are bringing local independent designers and boutiques from across the area under one roof on Friday and Saturday. Best of all, many vendors are offering significant discounts on their unique and handmade items.



Provided photos Elizabeth's Closet offers a faux alligator clutch at half price (\$125).

Indie Collection

Kenwood Towne Centre is hosting a two-day "store" of sorts featuring unique, upscale handmade clothing, jewelry and accessories, bath products and home goods. "The Indie Collection Cincinnati" will be held from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday at the former site of Bath & Body Works – on the upper level next to J Jill & Dillard's.



Handmade jewelry will be sold by Silver Foxes at Spring ShopFest.

Spring ShopFest

Tower Place Mall Downtown will host Spring ShopFest from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. At booths throughout the mall, local artists and boutiques will have handbags, bath and body products, jewelry, candles and other gift items for sale, including jewelry by JoyStone, accessories from Eula and pet accessories from Queen B and Serket Jewelry. The event also includes products from national companies that typically don't have retail storefronts, like Longaberger, Tastefully Simple, Avon, Pure Romance, Usborne Books, Kalantz Naturals and Creative Memories.

— Amy Howell Hirt

Perfect match

For mothers with day jobs as art or design professionals, these mugs say "World's Greatest Mom" in a way she'll be proud to display at the office. Pantone, a color system created in the 1960s, serves as a sort of global language for those in the industry. The mugs reproduce one of 10 interior color squares with its corresponding label. \$12 each at www.w2products.com.



Pantone's lavender, egg yolk and bright lime mugs

Luncheon dishes heart-health advice

The Enquirer

Women can learn about their risk for heart disease – and how to lower it – at the American Heart Association's fifth annual Go Red for Women Luncheon, Tuesday at the Duke Energy Center.

Since 1984, the number of women who die from cardiovascular disease has exceeded the number of men who die from it. "Heart disease claims the life of almost one woman every minute, but there's something you can do to help stop

it," said Anita Smith, chair of the luncheon and director of business development at Regency Hospital. The luncheon includes heart health screenings, education sessions on topics like foods that fight heart disease, a Red Dress Fashion

Show from University of Cincinnati design students and a keynote speech by Diana Nyad, who holds the world record for the longest swim in history – 102.5 miles from the island of Bimini to the Florida coast.

— Amy Howell Hirt

If you go

What: Go Red for Women Luncheon
When: 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday
Where: Duke Energy Convention Center, 525 Elm St., Downtown
Tickets: \$100; Contact Amy Lang at the American Heart Association: 513-842-8877 or Amy.Lang@heart.org. All proceeds benefit the American Heart Association.

KIDS' CORNER



Sidney Berger, Grade 4, Mercy Montessori Center

Submit your crayon, marker or watercolor visions of Family, Pets, School, Sports and Weather to Kids' Corner, Enquirer, 312 Elm St., Cincinnati, OH 45202. Please use white 8½-by-11 inch paper, draw the picture horizontally and include your name, grade, school and a daytime phone number where we can reach you.

MARKET OPENING

The Strauss & Troy Market on Fountain Square returns Tuesday for its third season. A variety of local vendors supply fresh produce, baked goods, prepared lunch foods, fresh flowers and distinctive handmade items. It will be open each Tuesday until Sept. 28, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. (not open June 1). www.myfountain-square.com/market.

SAVINGS BLOGGER IS FOOD-FOCUSED

Savings blogger Andrea Deckard, known on the Web as Mommy Snacks, has launched a new database that you can visit and search by type of food and/or brand and get coupons. Find her blog "Mommynacks.net," at www.cincinnati.com/lol.



Deckard

SIGN UP FOR LIVE SAVINGS SUMMIT

Save money on health, fitness, your grocery bill, clothes, beauty and fashion. Sign up now to attend the LOL: LIVE Savings Summit. The Summit will draw on the wisdom of local bloggers, who will share their tips and tricks on how to save money. The May 15 event is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and free to 350 people. Get more information at http://lolsavings.eventbrite.com/

ARE YOU ADDICTED TO REALITY TV?

Cincinnati's interest in "Dancing with the Stars" (8 p.m. today, Channels 9, 22) continues to outpace other cities, with 35 percent of viewers watching Chad Ochocinco on the ballroom floor. Why do we love reality TV here? Tell us. We also want to know which reality shows are Must See TV for you and why. What got you hooked? Send comments for possible inclusion in a story to reporter John Kiesewetter at jkiesewetter@enquirer.com, subject "Reality TV," or at 312 Elm Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 by Sunday. Include your full name, age, neighborhood or town, and daytime phone.