

Our experts offer stuffers that are fun, functional and everything in between

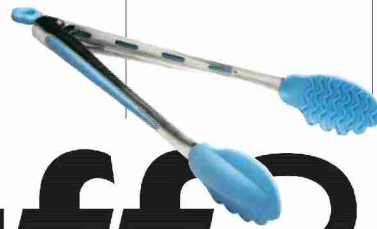
Kitchen tongs

\$9.99

Bed Bath & Beyond

This handy item will please the foodie on your gift list. The tongs have nonslip silicone tips, making them perfect for dealing with such tasks as removing a cheesecake or crème brûlée from a water bath. The business end locks in place, so they are easy to store. And they're heat-resistant up to 500 degrees, so you can pop them into the dishwasher for easy cleaning.

Gwen Schoen, Bee food writer



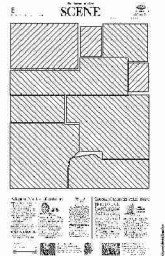
Got Stuff?

By **Leigh Grogan** |lgrogan@sacbee.com

A stocking with no stuff is about as Grinch-like as it gets. Hey, you can go really easy and simple (gloves, chocolate Santas) or healthy (fruit).

Like most holiday customs, the tradition of hanging stockings has all manner of stories attached to it. One has a father trying to marry off his daughters and getting help – via gold coins – from good ol' St. Nick.

Traditions aside, we asked our Bee writers to come up with some more uncommon must-have stuffers – for \$25 or less.



Evian Brumisateur

\$10

Sephora and Nordstrom

Evian spray has been around for years, and now it has an updated look. Luckily, the skin benefits remain the same. Keep a bottle chilled for after a workout, or one at your desk for an afternoon pick-me-up. There are different sizes for different needs, including a three-pack that fits into a carry-on bag.

Leigh Grogan, Bee fashion writer



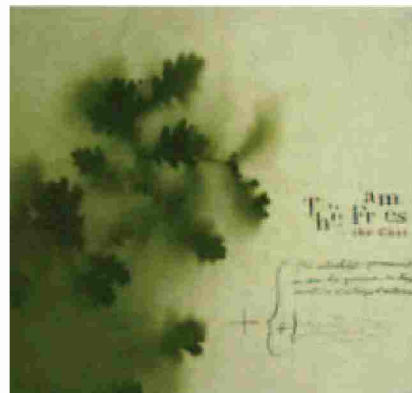
Pot brush

\$7

www.smithandhawken.com

I love terra cotta pots, but when it comes to cleaning them between plants, well, let's just say I haven't been very committed. But this pot brush makes the whole job easy. It's tough, easy to hold and designed in just the right shape to clean pot after pot, terra cotta or otherwise, quickly and easily. Swish, swish and you're done.

Pat Rubin, Home & Garden writer



Graphic tees for dogs

\$9.50

Old Navy

Hey, don't forget Fido (or Fifi) on your holiday stocking-stuffer list. And with these shirts from Old Navy, you can decide if he (or she) is more Cujo or Lassie. Or you can get both, and let your pooch pick the proper mood.

Gina Kim, Bee staff writer

earPod

\$9.99

www.cableorganizer.com

You know iPods will be under a lot of trees this year. So here's an accessory to toss in the stocking: the earPod, which houses the wires in a plastic, round enclosure to keep them from twisting and tangling. The felt-lined center also can hold ear buds so they don't get lost. And since style, of course, always counts, the earPods are available in white, black or pink.

Leigh Grogan, Bee fashion writer

"The Cost" by the Frames

\$16.98

Music stores and Amazon.com

Did you love "Once," the breakout indie film about two star-crossed Irish singer-songwriters? Surprise your sweetie with the Frames' latest CD, "The Cost" (Anti, \$16.98), featuring "Once" star Glen Hansard and its director, John Carney. The music is sweet and romantic but never sentimental, and the movie's magic shines through in a beautiful, full-band rendition of its signature song, "Falling Slowly."

Rachel Leibrock, Bee staff writer

"I Am America (And So Can You!)" by Stephen Colbert

\$16.49 at Amazon.com
or \$15 at [iTunes store](http://iTunes.com)

Colbert, the faux political pundit, is much better verbal than written. So, eschew buying the hardcover of his satirical book – hey, it's more expensive, anyway – and get someone the audio version. Yes, it's abridged, but it's still more than two hours of snarky Colbert goodness. He enlists many of his comedy cohorts, too, including Amy Sedaris, to voice the book.

Sam McManis, Bee staff writer

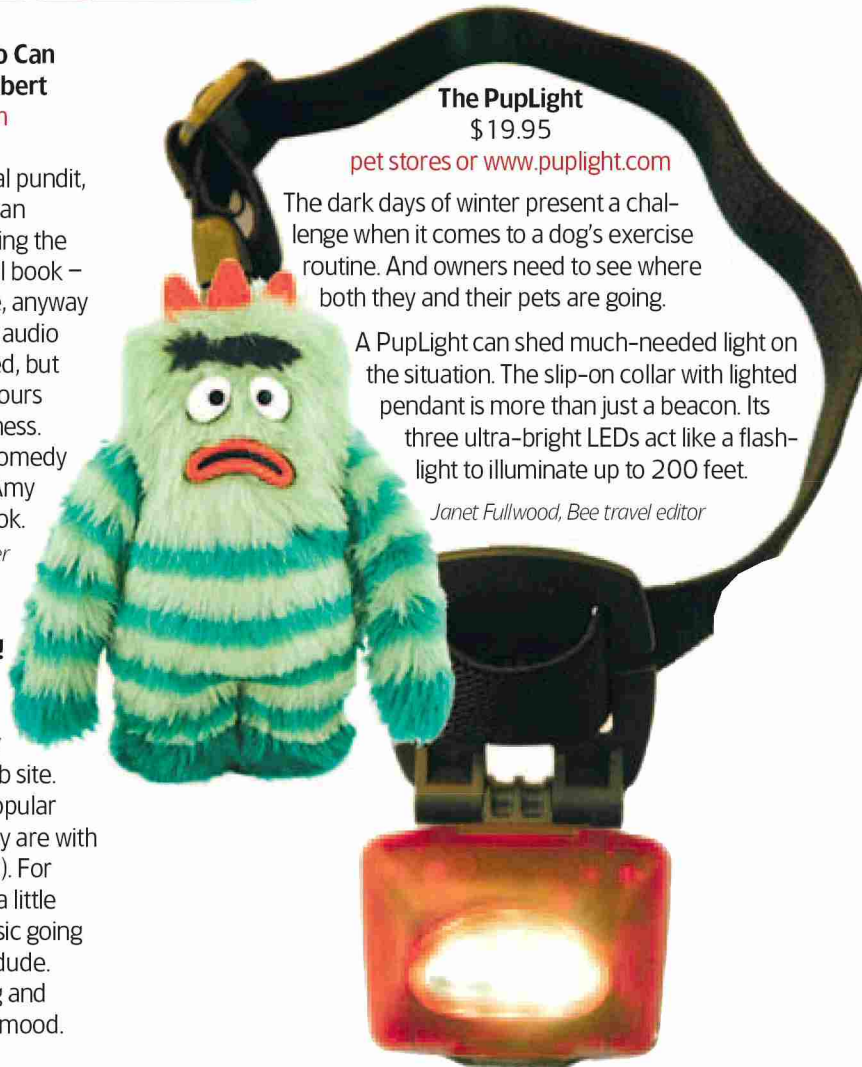
Brobee Yo Gabba Gabba!

\$24.95

www.kidrobot.com

I highly recommend any of the toys from this Web site. Heck, they are just as popular with young adults as they are with kids (especially my own!). For example, Brobee looks a little grumpy, but get the music going and he's one hip green dude. He loves colors, painting and food – when he's in the mood.

Edward Ortiz, Bee arts critic



The PupLight

\$19.95

[pet stores](#) or www.puplight.com

The dark days of winter present a challenge when it comes to a dog's exercise routine. And owners need to see where both they and their pets are going.

A PupLight can shed much-needed light on the situation. The slip-on collar with lighted pendant is more than just a beacon. Its three ultra-bright LEDs act like a flashlight to illuminate up to 200 feet.

Janet Fullwood, Bee travel editor



Victoria's Secret Pink socks

\$24.50

Victoria's Secret and www.victoriassecret.com

Cold feet, warm socks. Right? The Pink collection of comfy clothes from Victoria's Secret is any girl's best friend, especially when it comes to fending off the chill. And the bursts of color will, well, "knock your white socks off," as the Web site says. The cozy socks come in heather charcoal, bright pink and cool nights.

Leigh Grogan, Bee fashion writer