

Have it her way: A last-minute Mother's Day shopping guide

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All mothers are different, but they have one thing in common: They're special to us.

This Mother's Day, there are plenty of unique and traditional ways for you to show your mother how much she means to you. Whether it's a spa gift certificate or a motorized pool lounger, there's something out there that will make every mom feel good. You just have to find it.

You still have time, too. Here are a few ideas and suggestions to get you started.

Find a spa

Has Mom been hinting that she'd like to go to a spa? If you don't know one spa from another, let her pick her own. Visit www.spafinder.com and buy a her **Spa Finder** gift certificate, which is good toward any luxurious spa-treatment service at participating spas. It comes with a spa directory to make it easy for Mom to choose.

A movie a day

Give Mom a gift subscription to **Netflix** – the national DVD-subscription service – so she can watch movies nonstop. She can even watch movies about moms, such as "Freaky Friday" or "Mommie Dearest," or any other movie. Plans start at \$9.99. Visit www.netflix.com.

Beary special

Build-A-Bear Workshop stores are hosting monthlong events to "Cele-bear-ate" moms. Customers can win prizes for Mom, including a Hawaiian vacation, a JCPenney gift card and more. Stop by a Build-A-Bear Workshop for details or check www.buildabear.com for more information and Central Jersey store locations.

Summer skin protection

The Women's Summer-Skin Survival Kit by the New York-based **Emerge Skin Care** makes a great Mother's Day gift. Through May 31, it's on sale for \$91.99 (normally \$148). The kit includes the following essential products in easy-to-pack bottles: **Emerge Vita C Plus**, \$45, 1.12 oz.; **Vita C Firming Toner**, \$28, 8 oz.; **Daily Defense Moisturizer SPF 30 with Azulene**, \$27, 1.7 oz.; **Moisturizing Protection SPF 30**, \$25, 1.7 oz.; and **Anti Aging Natural Looking Self Tanner**, \$22.50, 3.2 oz. Each item is also available separately. Visit www.metspa.com or www.emergeskinicare.com.

No cooking involved

If Mom is a sushi lover, how about the Sushi Making Kit by **Sushi Chef**? The \$34.95 kit includes Sushi Chef's short-grain rice, rice vinegar, nori (seaweed), wasabi, pickled ginger, dark soy sauce and a special bamboo

mat and bamboo paddle with a Sushi Chef cookbook. The kit is available at select specialty stores or www.cooking.com, www.gourmetmagic.com, www.amazon.com or www.kitchenkapers.com.

Gift for the senses

The Cologne Gift Collection by Jo Malone includes the following scents: Amber & Lavender, Grapefruit, Lime & Mandarin, French Lime Blossom, Orange Blossom and Vintage Gardenia. The scents are available at Jo Malone shops (www.jomalone.com), Bergdorf Goodman and select Neiman Marcus and Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

Girlfriend, this is it

Help moms make themselves a top priority by getting them Vicki Iovine's booklet "The Girlfriends Guide to Being a Hot Mama." Visit www.bigcitymoms.com to get a free copy. In the book, Iovine addresses secrets to happy skin, being a "hot mama from the inside out and the outside-in" and why your dermatologist is as important as your gynecologist.

Customize the day

Wallbounce.com is a Web-based service that can customize Mom's day with a Mother's Day package. It can set up a private flower-arranging class, a private manicure/pedicure party, beginner golf lessons, a private chef, a day on the town, a day of house cleaning – and many other things. www.wallbounce.com

365 ways a year

Sure, you show Mom your love on Mother's Day, but what about the rest of the year? **Pixie Dust Gifts** has the gift that will tell Mom she's the best – every day. It's a jar filled with 365 strips of paper, each with a saying or quote. Every day for a year, Mom will be reminding that she's in your thoughts. www.pixiedustgifts.com

Dress her right

Erebelle is a Texas-based luxury athletic clothing brand for women that mixes art with fashion. The spring collection has 11 base patterns that will allow your mom to be not only chic but comfortable. www.girlnd.com

Beauty starts from within

Help your mom be healthy and beautiful from within with Pure Inventions Flavored Green Tea Extracts. Studies have shown that green tea is a powerful antioxidant and that it helps maintain healthy cholesterol, promote weight loss, increase energy and combat the signs of aging. Pure Invention Green Teas are available in different flavors, and have a suggested retail price for \$29.95 a bottle. It's sold online at www.pureinventions.com and at spas, fine salons, doctor's offices and fitness centers.

Retro mom

Give Mom a bit of the good ol' days with a gift from her past. Talbots has styles from the past that have been "reworked and refreshed. From eyelet and grosgrain ribbon to metallic glimmer and mod patterns,

there's something to bring out the girl in every mom this season," said Talbots Fashion Public Relations Director Betsy Thompson. Visit www.talbots.com or call (800) 825-2687 to find a Talbots near you.

Jazz her up

Get her a pair of slip-on cuffs by CuFF LuV. It has a new line of "flirty embellishments of cuffs and sleeves" to give any wardrobe a little kick. www.cuffluvstuff.com.

Pocket peepers

Help Mom stop squinting. Pocket Peepers are made of Swarovski crystals in the shape of a stylish credit-card-sized reading lens that makes printed material clearer. You can adjust the strength of the lens by moving it closer to or further away from your eyes. For other cool gifts, visit the New York Public Library online at www.thelibraryshop.org.

Mercy kits

How about a charitable bouquet or a Mother's Day Mercy Kit? Proceeds from the kit, a beautiful bouquet of flowers, go to support Mercy Corps humanitarian work to improve the lives of needy families and children, including Hurricane Katrina victims. Each kit sells for \$100. Buy online at www.mercycorps.org/mercykits

Have a ball

Spend the weekend in Cooperstown, N.Y., and celebrate Mother's Day with events dedicated to women in history. The town's cultural institutions will feature special events and exhibitions celebrating women in sports, art and history. For more information, visit www.baseballhalloffame.org, www.fenimoreartmuseum.org and www.farmersmuseum.org.

In the driver's seat

One minute, you're relaxing on a raft in a pool. The next minute, you've noticed that , until the raft drifts somewhere inconvenient. Fear not! With Excalibur Electronics, their motorized inflatable pool lounge features two independent motors, allowing Mom to move the lounge forward, backwards, left and right. Comes with two easy to use joysticks, comfortable armrests and a built-in cup holder. \$149.95. www.ExcaliburElectronics.net/pr

Sweet-looking sushi

Koo-Ki Sushi makes delectable confections that look like they come from the sushi bar, but are actually chocolate and cookie treats. These aren't ordinary chocolates. They combine beauty and chocolate in the form of a dessert feast. Flavors range from chocolate to strawberry and apricot to green tea. Prices range from \$5 for a single piece and up to \$72 for a classic lacquerware gift box of chocolates. Order online at www.kookisushi.com or call (866) GO-KOOKI.

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