



Holiday GIFT GUIDE

2018

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Merry mixology

What's missing from
your table?

Calendar: Holiday
happenings

Plenty of seats at a well-set table

Cooper Boone curates community at Foundry42



Photos by Michael Bloom

A holiday place setting. Tassels by Jana Phipps, the Trim Queen; menu by Michelle Vinson and Cooper Boone; feather by Alders; napkin designed by Michelle Vinson from Brush & Inc. of Shohola, PA; flatware by Juliska and runner from Foundry42.

By ANNEMARIE SCHUETZ

PORT JERVIS, NY — Thanksgiving is here. Time to unpack the holiday dreams.

We dream about family, traditional food, the scents that remind us we've come home. But far too often, those dreams never make it to reality. We get lost in the minutiae, or the family arguments or the travel arrangements.

Talk holidays with Cooper Boone, and you come away thinking that the reality should

“We all crave connection... When (we) find a place to belong, we're happier.”

revolve around community and belonging—wherever you find it.

As the shopkeeper at Port Jervis lifestyle store Foundry42, Boone is busy creating retail magic for the season. The shop sells a bit of everything, carefully curated: high-end furniture, vintage

items and home goods in one section; coffee, carbs and gluten-free treats in the coffee bar. The event space allows for live music, meditation classes, story time, weddings, dances, theater, workshops and more.

But he's pushing the idea of retail further. In this era of dying shopping malls and the rise of the internet, “I have this concept around sharing our area,” he said. “I wanted to use (the shop) as a canvas to showcase the depth of talent here.”

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Seats

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Enter WeShare, a chance for local providers of all things lifestyle to get together and talk. From a bystander's perspective, it is a way for people without retailing backgrounds to get their messages and products out to the wider world, especially in a rural area that lacks opportunities. During the weekend of September 29, Boone recruited artisans, farmers, writers and a smorgasbord of providers of local goods from the Catskills, the Poconos and the Hudson Valley to participate in what rapidly spiraled from a visit to a full-on demonstration of what the area has to offer.

"The weekend was based on sharing, so we simply call it 'WeShare,' with the idea that if you share, that very act of sharing will inspire others to follow suit," Boone said.

The group gathered at the farmhouse shared by Boone, his partner Mark Veeder, and their twin daughters to eat, talk and share what they do.

How does that tie into the holidays?

For many people, the holiday dream is painted by Norman Rockwell, the stuff of connection, based in sharing food and stories.

Before Foundry42, Boone was a clinical psychologist. Now, he's thinking and talking about the human craving for experience—physical interaction, not just typing words into a computer—a craving that surfaces, sometimes painfully, at the holidays.

"People bond with experiences... We want community." That, he feels, can be built around good food and events that bring everyone together. Not just with a birth family, but with friends and neighbors, sharing food and talking.

And not just in a house. "At Foundry42, it's like my big living room... we engage people, encourage them to stay and hang out."

Forging ties between people. "When (we) find a place to belong, we're happier."

That place can be a house of worship, somewhere we volunteer or the neighborhood pub. It can be a café or an art gallery or a studio where we take classes. It can even be a shop. "We all crave connec-



Hammered copper julip glasses or Moscow Mule mugs accent a holiday table.



Succulents, wild moss, feathers and found natural items create a perfect holiday centerpiece

Quick tips for your holiday meal

So you're hosting family or friends—or both—at the holidays. Cooper Boone suggests ways to curate your own stunning, natural holiday table. Ask friends for help or work with local artists to make the event complete.

- Use tassels as napkins rings
- Print your own menu design
- Add a feather
- Create a unique napkin
- Forage from nature to create a beautiful centerpiece

tion," said Boone. "Connection and belonging." Especially at this time of year, especially around the holiday table.

Visit Foundry42 at 42 Front St, Port Jervis. 845/858-4942 or visit f42home.com

December 9 | 11am to 4pm



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For more information please visit
thecooperageproject.org