



GIFTS FROM THE SEA

Crafted by Paramus native Janet Akhtarshenas of shells scooped from the sands of the Jersey Shore, these butterflies make **CHARMING TREE ORNAMENTS** or decorations for wrapped packages (\$8 each). Available at JEHAFinecrafts.Bigcartel.com
—AMELIA DUGGAN



GETTING WARM AND TOASTY

Burnt toast can be bad for any sandwich. Make your friends and family happy this holiday season with the **KITCHENAID PRO LINE TOASTER** (two-slice, \$300; four-slice, \$400). The sleek design features extra-wide slots (for your morning bagel), a defrost button and an automatic warming function to keep your bread heated for three minutes after toasting. My favorite aspect of the toaster is the "A Little Longer" button that allows for additional browning. Now you can make the perfect toast. I'll cheers to that! Available at Williams-Sonoma.com locations
—LAURA ADAMS

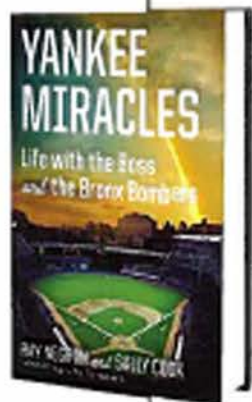


A DISH FOR A DIVA

C. Wonder's **PATTERNED PLATES** (\$38 each) are the perfect bedside table accessory. I use one on each of my bedside tables to hold jewelry and other special trinkets. The patterns and colors are fun, stylish and a great decorative piece. Available at C. Wonder, Westfield Garden State Plaza
—HEATHER ZWAIN

MAKING MIRACLES

Older Yankees fans remember George Steinbrenner as the venture capitalist who rebuilt the franchise after buying it from CBS in 1973. The real story, of course, took place in the decades that followed, when the Boss turned the Bombers into the American League's most dominant team, even if it meant ruling with an iron fist (and a wide-open checkbook). Ray Negron has a different perspective on Steinbrenner. In **YANKEE MIRACLES: LIFE WITH THE BOSS AND BRONX BOMBERS** (\$16, Norton Press), a book co-written with Sally Cook, Negron recalls his days as a Yankees batboy and his unique introduction to the Boss — getting caught by the man himself as he was spray painting graffiti on the walls of the stadium. Negron was only 17 at the time. Being arrested by Steinbrenner, long associated with the team's community outreach days and nights, was a life-changing experience. Negron is the only person to have discovered the team's secret stash of cash, the Boss's private jet, and more. Available at amazon.com
—BOB KLAPINSKY



FANCY FOOTWORK

A standard stocking stuffer in our house is **SOCKS**. This may go back to grandpa's stories of Christmas past when his only gifts were socks and tangerines. Or it may just be that the young men in my family enjoy socks with pizzazz. These striped styles are from the Gap (three for \$18). Available at Gap.com locations
—MARY VALLO



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HURRICANE SANDY RELIEF

ALISON FURIN AND OTHER BRONX RESIDENTS RAISE SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE

PLUS: HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE, REVEALING THE HALLS OF FAME, THE HALLS OF FAME, WINTER SOLISTICE

