

hostess with the most-est

By Jenny Muslin



MAKE IT BETTER READER: **TINA SCHULER** OF GURNEE

Why show up with the standard bottle of wine when these gifts can make you a star guest? Tina Schuler of Gurnee is known as the ultimate hostess to her friends and family. Tina enjoys entertaining with her husband, **Scott**, and two daughters, **Natalie**, 12, and **Elizabeth**, 10. Tina draws inspiration from Martha Stewart and enjoys using vintage items to add character to the table. "I enjoy antiquing and use old linens, silverware and vintage serving dishes to change the look of things, without spending too much," Tina says. "For instance, I have an old hutch on my patio and keep miscellaneous silverware together in a basket for outdoor entertaining."

Depending on the time of year, Tina creates a menu that's seasonal and leans towards a particular flavor or type of food. She also relies on farmer's markets for flowers and vegetables, saying, "There's just no substitute for the real thing."



1. SACS OF LIFE RE-USABLE GROCERY BAG with thermal interior \$45, *The Style Shack*, 447 Central Ave., Highland Park, 847-579-4525; stylehackgifts.com

2. MICHAEL ARAM COFFEE SPOON Useful, fun, and beautifully designed. \$44 from *Art Effect*, 934 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, 773-929-3600, shoparteffect.com

3. MONOGRAM SOAPS AND HAND TOWEL \$45, *The Stationery Studio*, 460 Newtown Drive, Buffalo Grove, 847-541-5800, thestationerystudio.com

4. METRYOSKA MEASURING CUPS by Fred Charming and sweet, these measuring cups really doll up a kitchen. \$16, *Art Effect*, 934 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, 773-929-3600, shoparteffect.com

5. CREATIVE CO-OP BATHROOM TOWEL HOLDER Little birds make this a charming addition to the bathroom. \$18, *The Style Shack*, 447 Central Ave., Highland Park, 847-579-4525, stylehackgifts.com

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- * 10% discount from Style Shack during the month of December (on one purchase)
- * 10% discount from Royal Appointments during the month of December (on one purchase)
- * Use code **MIB1210** during the month of December and receive 20% off the Stationery Studio gifts featured

- 6. TAKE-OUT MENU BOX** Hand-painted and perfect for storing all your takeout menus. \$29, from *Royal Appointments*, 2048 Northbrook Court, Northbrook, 847-559-8111, royalappointmentsonline.com
- 7. CALF AND HALF CREAMER** This whimsical little creamer by Fred will be a welcome addition to your hosts' breakfast table. \$26 from *Art Effect*, 934 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, 773-929-3600, shoparteffect.com
- 8. BAMBOO SALAD SERVERS WITH A DARLING PUCCI-STYLE CASE**, \$40, *The Style Shack*, 447 Central Ave., Highland Park, 847-579-4525, www.styleshackgifts.com
- 9. MONOGRAMMED PLAYING CARDS GIFT SET** When Tina is the guest, she explains, "I really love bringing anything monogrammed. It's such a personal touch and you really can't go wrong." These monogrammed gifts instantly make something common more special. \$55, *The Stationery Studio*, 460 Newtown Dr., Buffalo Grove, 847-541-5800, thestationerystudio.com
- 10. PERSONALIZED "HOME IS GROWN" PLATTER** An ideal gift for a family. \$29, *Royal Appointments*, 2048 Northbrook Court, Northbrook, 847-559-8111, royalappointments.com

- 11. LAPHROAIG ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY** A great change-up from wine when you need a host gift. \$44, *Schaefer's*, 9965 Gross Point Rd., Skokie, 847-677-WINE, schaefer.com
- 12. SACS OF LIFE METRO EARTH BAG** This bag lays across your body—perfect for the mom on-the-move. \$60, *The Style Shack*, 447 Central Ave., Highland Park, 847-579-4525, styleshackgifts.com

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