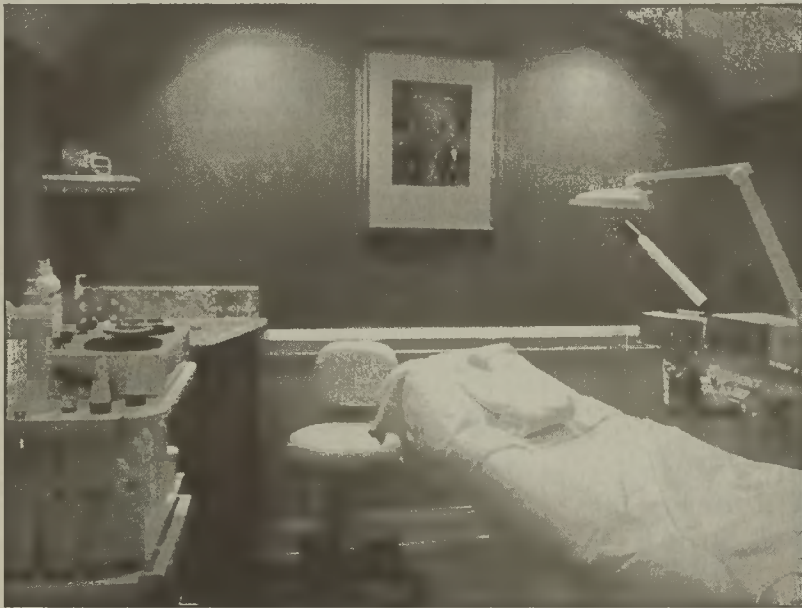


For Mother's Day, think outside box



Instead of the tried (or tired) and true Mother's Day gift, try something daring like art or a day at the spa.

By Cheri F. Hodges
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Mother's Day is just around the corner. But instead of loading mom down with flowers, candy and perfumes, look outside the box to give her something special and different.

If anyone deserves to be pampered, it's mom. Kara Dilligard is doing just that for her mother with a day at the spa.

"She can have flowers any day," Dilligard said. "She needs to be pampered just like she pampers me and my sister."

Dilligard said her mother, who recently retired from a full-time job, takes care of her elderly parents and runs a home business.

"She's going non-stop," Dilligard said about her mother.

Cherith Peterson, manager of Sephoria-South Park, said the cosmetics store is offering mother/daughter makeovers Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. -7 p.m.

"We want to pamper mom and give them a free makeover," Peterson said. "We invited them to bring their daughters because at this time of the year you want to be around your mother."

At Oasis Day Spa on East 7th Street, spa coordinator Lacey Jenkins, said when moms come in for treatment, they'll be in for total pampering. "We give facials, massages, body treatments and pedicures," she said.

Since Oasis isn't open on Sundays and Saturdays are booked well in advance, Jenkins said most people give their mothers gift certificates to use at any time.

Darlene Merriweather of African American Art in Eastland Mall said another popular Mother's Day item is angel figurines and portraits with poetry.

"A lot people find it hard to buy for mothers, especially older mothers, because they have everything," Merriweather said.

Some mothers just have a simple request from their children and family on Mother's Day. "I just want a nice dinner with all of my children," said Renee Houston, the mother of three. "Two of my children are grown and it's hard for all of us to get together."

Janie McClurkin agreed.

"The best gift they can give me is just their love," she said.

ADOPT



PATRICK

"He is a respectful and courteous child. A pleasure to be around."

-Social Worker

About Patrick (DOB 10/12/91):

- Enjoys football and basketball
- Likes to draw and is very creative
- Participated in karate
- Has stated that he would love to have a parent to fish and play sports with him
- Hopes to be the president of the USA
- Enjoys participating in church activities
- He needs a family that has lots of love and patience

Mecklenburg County
Youth & Family Services
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[a sheer jacket — one of the gifts we love] **NORDSTROM**



CYNTHIA MAX Sheer jacket in blue rayon/nylon/linen print, s-xl; 78.00. Narrative.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 9.