

# These books boast some crafty holiday gift ideas

For some of us it's just too early to start thinking about Christmas. Like it or not, it's just a month away and, if you like to celebrate the season by creating handmade gifts or decorations, that's just about the time you need to research and produce your cre-

ations. Fortunately there are a great many wonderful Christmas craft books on the market, with all

range of crafting techniques. The beautiful full-color photographs of the completed pieces also make this book a great browse.



**By the Book**  
*Christine Dalgetty*

*What should I Bring?: Great Gifts for Every Occasion* -- By Alison Boteler

A delightful book for everyone looking for unique and special gift ideas for special occasions. The projects are easy and Boteler not only guides the reader step-by-step in creating them but also suggests imaginative packaging and wrapping ideas. Some of the projects include gifts you can make from scratch, gifts from your kitchen and some really creative ideas you can assemble from an imaginative shopping trip.

*The Perfect Basket: Make Your own Special Occasion Baskets* -- By Diane Phillips

Who doesn't love to receive a gift basket filled with goodies and gifts? This popular Christmas gift idea needn't be an expensive option. By creating your own baskets you can personalize them, tailoring the contents to match the recipient and include some homemade goodies from your kitchen. Phillips offers recipes and ideas for creating that "perfect basket".

*175 Easy-to-Do Christmas Crafts* -- Edited by Sharon Dunn-Umnik

This one is for kids 3 to 12, part of an excellent series of children's seasonal craft books. These books are under \$10 and feature crafts that can be made of inexpensive household recyclables and common craft supplies like construction paper, crayons, glue, paper plates, tissue tubes etc. Each craft features easy-to-follow instructions and colour photographs -- everything you need to create wonderful decorations, cards, games and gifts.

kinds of ideas from simple gifts and ornaments to those with very ornate and intricate designs.

Christmas projects appeal to crafters of all skill levels and I have chosen a few that include a variety of crafts and techniques. Be it quilting, folk art painting, applique, decoupage, simple sewing projects, needlepoint or gifts from your kitchen, you're sure to find a Christmas project that will make a treasured decoration or personalized gift. Get out your glue guns and enjoy!

*A Crafter's Book of Santas: More than 50 Festive Projects* -- By Leslie Dierks

If you love Santa Claus, this is the book for you. It features 52 sensational Santas from the old world St. Nicholas to the jolly merry Mr. Claus of today. Sweaters, place mats, pillows, windsocks, and many Christmas ornaments fill this book. Each project includes step-by-step instructions and a full color photograph of the completed project.

*101 Christmas Crafts: Ornaments, decorations and gifts* -- Pat Richards Crafts Collection

Seasoned crafters will recognize another high-quality Pat Richards book. This one is filled with wonderful ideas for the season: Victorian, country or "wonderfully eclectic", these holiday ideas are for crafters of all abilities and feature a wide



Simon Leptokaridis serves up sahanaki opa -- flaming cheese.

## Venus in Markham is just like being in Greece

Everyone is saying it -- Venus in Markham is the best authentic Greek restaurant in town.

"When Ross Dixon moved into Markham's Old Town Hall, I discovered Venus Restaurant. It's now where I hold most of my business luncheons and dinners," said Kevan Crozier of Unionville.

"The food is superb, the service just right and the atmosphere perfect for confidential conversations. I highly recommend Simon and his team at Venus."

Offering homemade Greek cuisine, the seven-year-old restaurant -- located in the Old Town Hall -- is the perfect setting for romantic dinners, business lunches and Christmas functions.

And next to jumping on a plane and traveling to Greece, Venus is just like being in the

beautiful country.

"You don't have to go to Greece to experience the food, the service. Venus offers everything," said owner Simon Leptokaridis.

People can order authentic food like lethrini -- fresh red snapper, boiled to perfection and smothered in a lemon oil sauce; sahanaki opa -- flaming cheese; dolmadakia (stuffed grape leaves with rice and ground beef in an egg and lemon sauce) and pork souvlaki.

And not only is the food delicious, it's also bountiful and at a very low price. On average, people can go out for dinner and spend \$10 to \$12 a person.

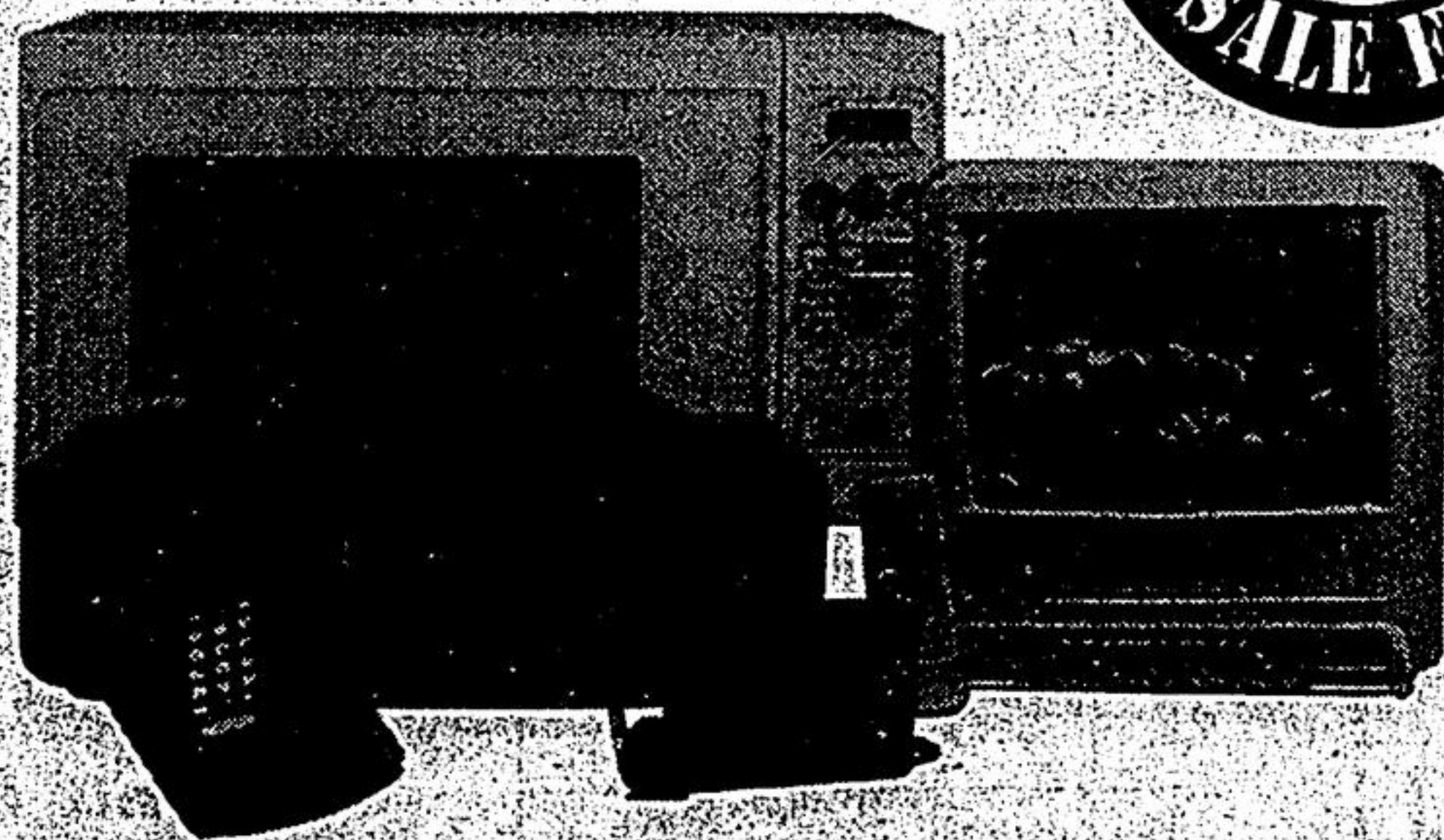
Venus in Markham is located at 96 Main Street, N. Markham.

For details: 472-9050.

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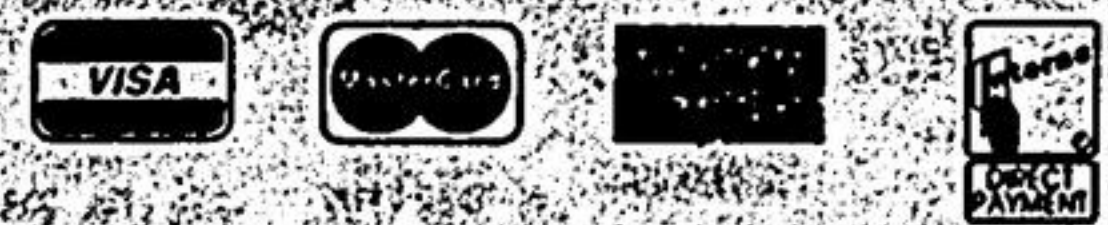
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