

MARIN

EXTRAORDINARY LIVING



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BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Make your list—and check it twice—with our helpful gift guide

BY OLIVIA BOLER

Turkeys roasting, pumpkin pies baking, cans of cranberries stocked on supermarket shelves. December is that time of year for family gatherings and shortening days, when a chill infuses the air along with the perfume of wood smoke. It also marks the beginning of the winter holiday shopping frenzy—unless you're one of the few with the foresight to start making your gift purchases in June. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or winter solstice, here's a roundup of gift books sure to please even the most persnickety recipient on your list.

Viva Colores: A Salute to the Indomitable People of Guatemala by Paola Gianturco and David Hill (\$39.95, **powerHouse Books**). Mill Valley photographer Gianturco with her co-author/husband Hill have put forth a spectacular collection of images spanning ten years. Having lost over a million individuals and endured a three-decade-long civil war, Guatemalans manage to carry on, and they do so without losing hope for happiness. Their unconquerable spirit is obvious in what the authors rightly describe as a "cacophony of color that assaults you." Written in Spanish and English,

the 41 profiles in this book will both move and inspire. The authors are donating their royalties to a nongovernmental organization doing work in the Guatemala Highlands—truly, a gift book that keeps on giving.