

A Letter from the Editor:

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the April issue of *Hanna's Happenings!* This month, I'm sharing a handful of projects I've made as gifts for people I love.

As much as I enjoy making art, wearables, and food for myself, there's something especially meaningful about committing to a handmade gift for someone else. Time and attention are two of the most valuable things I can give anyone, and a handmade gift is one of the few ways to make that tangible.

Making gifts also gives me the chance to design with a specific person in mind. As ideas take shape, I find myself doing research: reaching out to mutual friends, asking questions, paying closer attention to what someone mentions offhand. Plus, working within someone else's aesthetic is a unique creative challenge. The result is something you genuinely can't buy, not because it's handmade, but because it was made for them.

The projects in this issue cross different materials, forms, and themes, from risqué stamps to stuffed bunnies. But they're all connected by the intent to make something thoughtful and specific to share. I hope you enjoy reading about these gifts as much as I enjoyed making them (and giving them away).

Feel free to forward this email, or hit reply and tell me about a handmade gift you've made or received.

With love,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hanna Clements". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hanna" and the last name "Clements" clearly legible.

APRIL 2026

Made with Love | Hanna's Happenings

Custom 'Poppy Peach' Stamp

Earlier this month, my friend Lydia rang in her 30th birthday with a weekend of celebration, which included a burlesque show she performed in. I made her this custom stamp to pay tribute to her professional alias, Poppy Peach, and to celebrate her as an artist and performer.



I got the idea for the stamp's motif after several exchanges with one of our mutual friends. The concept is a dancer on a pole, the pole itself a poppy stem, with a juicy peach right where you'd expect one. Once I had a sketch, the carving process was incredibly satisfying and surprisingly fast.

A Gift That Keeps Giving

One thing I love about translating the Poppy Peach emblem into a stamp is that it gives Lydia room to be creative with the gift herself. We spent some of our time together exploring different inks and printing techniques, and she ended up distributing prints to friends and family at her performance and birthday party, which perfectly captures her giving personality.

A Poppy Peach Hoodie...For Me

During our printing session Lydia and I discussed the idea of using the Poppy Peach stamp on clothing. I happily volunteered to test the idea, which sent me on a side quest to thrift a vintage hoodie and pick up some fabric paint.

Overall, the project came out great, and I'm stoked to own the first ever Poppy Peach Hoodie. That said, the stamp didn't transfer cleanly onto fabric. The fabric absorbed significantly more ink than paper, and I didn't know how to load the block heavily enough without blowing out the fine lines of the design.

I've since read up about fabric printing and I'm excited to try it again. With any luck, I'll have a more refined process to share with Lydia or write about in a future issue.



Stuffed Bunny for Hazel

Pattern by Sarah Abbondio

My niece Hazel just turned one, and I celebrated by making a handmade gift that was outside the realm of my usual fiber arts projects: a crocheted bunny stuffed animal.

I've historically steered away from amigurumi, the Japanese art of making small stuffed yarn creatures. Tiny projects are harder on the hands, and finishing work like weaving in ends doesn't really scale down.

Still, I knew this would be a perfect gift for her, so I went for it.

I spent a lot of time selecting materials for this project. My local yarn store, Black Sheep, carries some beautiful options, including a 100% Pakucho cotton yarn. "Pakucho" comes from an ancient Incan word meaning "brown cotton," and refers to undyed, color-grown fiber. The brand I used avoids pesticides and herbicides, making it a great choice for something that will inevitably end up in a baby's mouth.



Amigurumi often use plastic safety eyes, but I embroidered all the details to keep everything 100% cotton and baby-safe, and even stuffed it with an old cotton t-shirt.

The project was straightforward overall, but I did make one silly mistake. I was in a bit of a rush, and accidentally sewed the tail onto the back of the bunny's head instead of the body and had to redo it.

Watching Hazel hug her bunny (and immediately start chewing one of the ears) made it well worth the extra effort.



Gifting Food

Cooking for my friends and family is one of my favourite acts of service, so it makes sense that I gravitate to gifting food.

Several of the recipes I have featured in past issues make great gifts. In fact, I gave my dad one of the jars of giardiniera that I made for my [February issue](#).



My Chili Crisp is particularly well-loved by my friends and family. It's become a Christmas tradition for Alex and me to make a giant batch. I shared the Chili Crisp recipe in my [November 2025 issue](#). The granola recipe from that issue also makes a great gift!



One environmentally friendly and inexpensive tip for gifting food is to reuse or thrift glass jars and bottles. I like to customize my containers with handmade labels.

From the Archive - Crochet Hat

I've crocheted a few hats for Alex, including this charcoal and green one I made the winter before last. It is inspired by his signature bright green jacket, and I had just enough yarn leftover to make him a coordinating scarf. I really liked how the set turned out, and I'm lucky Alex lets me borrow it.

Hats are a great gift because they're fast to make, easily customizable, and perfect for using up single balls of yarn and scraps and leftovers. My go-to approach is simple: crochet a rectangle and join the sides and top. Here I opted for front loop only double crochet and stripes to add texture to the pattern.



A Hummingbird for a Hummingbird

My office window looks out over treetops that support a healthy hummingbird population. Their graceful, flitting movements and iridescent colors always bring my friend Tessa to mind.



Despite her hummingbird-like nature, Tessa has been exceedingly patient while I take my time finishing this beaded hummingbird patch for her (which was technically a Christmas present).

I made the patch using leftover beads from a coho salmon piece I made for myself. These two species share an overlapping palette of greens, browns, and fuchsia. It was satisfying to use what I had on hand, and I liked the excuse to sit with that connection: two beautiful animals of the same color, mapped to two friends.

While I love both the process and the finished pieces that come out of beaded embroidery, it's a demanding and time-intensive technique, so I'll probably reserve this type of project for very special occasions.

Hand Poured Candles

This winter I impulse-bought three pounds of beeswax without a clear idea of what I wanted to do with it.



I've since made several candles and orange-peel tea lights, most of which I've given away. I have a lot of wax left and several ideas, but I might not get to them for a while.

