

Re-gifting in a Greening World

Dear Breathing Space Folks-

You still have time to try this holiday tip. It's something that I've been thinking about a lot as 190 countries gather in Bali for the UN Conference on Climate Change. My tip is about re-gifting and making it a GREAT thing to do for your loved ones AND the planet.

I've just finished reading a wonderful book - THREE CUPS OF TEA, about Greg Mortensen, an American high peak climber who turned his efforts to building schools in Pakistan...building peace, one school at a time. A client had read it, didn't plan to read it again, and enthusiastically passed it on to me.

It turns out that this book is on my mother-in-law's AAUW book group reading list for 2008 and I drew her name for Christmas. I KNOW that in the "old days" giving her this well read copy might have been considered cheapskate - a lesser present than a brand new copy. BUT I propose rethinking this viewpoint. WHY is a brand new copy better?

There's an animation on www.storyofstuff.com that includes these statistics: The US has 5% of the world's population but uses 30% of the world's resources and produces 30% of the world's waste. The video is worth watching as it gives easy to comprehend information about HOW we got here and what we can do. Perhaps watch it with your family and friends.

But in the meantime, how GREEN can you be this holiday? What in your space HAVE you cherished but no longer really see or use? Who in your life would love it? In what ways can you express your love by regifting or giving a gift of service or shared time instead of stuff?

Wishing you GREEN and loving holidays!

Joanna