

Don't MISS

December

by Christine Werthman

Saving Our Seas

Just in time for the holidays, Oceana, the international ocean conservation group, presents "Eat a Cookie, Save the Oceans," a holiday gift program whose proceeds go toward funding Oceana's fight against pollution, unsustainable fishing, the destruction of coral reefs and the harming of sea creatures. Shoppers may visit www.oceana.org/adopt to virtually adopt a marine animal friend, and depending on the donation amount, they may receive up to 16 ocean-themed cookie cutters, a baking mitt, an official adoption certificate and ocean facts. Adoptees may also receive a sugar cookie recipe specially concocted for the program by Warren Brown, star of the Food Network's *Sugar Rush*, and Chris Spinosa, head baker at Brown's DC-based CakeLove bakery. Visit the Web site for more details.



The Real Winter Wonderland

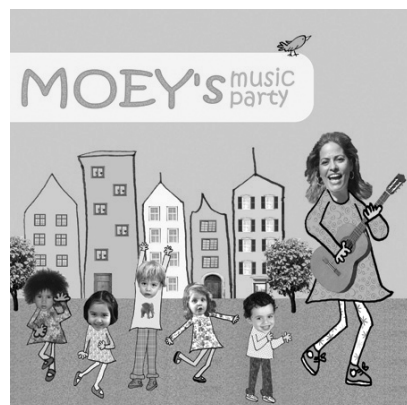
Families may experience the wild beauty of the arctic and the captivating lives of its inhabitants in the astonishing real-life adventure *Arctic Tale*, arriving on DVD and HD DVD on December 4 by Paramount Home Entertainment. Queen Latifah provides the entertaining narration that brings to life the story of two very different arctic creatures living in the vast snow kingdom at the top of the world. *Arctic Tale* follows Nanu, a polar bear cub, and Seela, a walrus pup, through exciting and harrowing struggles for survival. Armed only with their natural instincts and mothers' guidance, these inspiring animals face countless trials and challenges in a beautiful ice-filled world that is rapidly melting beneath them. Pick up your copy wherever DVDs are sold.

Right on Target

Give your loved ones a gift that will give back this holiday season from Target. As part of an ongoing commitment to give back to the community, Target has created a collection of holiday gifts through the Thanks and Giving® fundraising campaign to allow guests to help support a number of special nonprofit organizations. With each purchase of items in the holiday collection, funds will be directly donated to various causes, including the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Gifts include a plush elephant gift card holder, a Choxie™ Truffle Tile gift box, photo lab holiday cards and more. Visit the Target store nearest you for details.

Party and Learn

When Mom Melissa Levis learns something new about childcare while raising her son, she puts it into a song. Her CD, *Moey's Music Party*, covers topics— from potty training to getting dressed in the morning— familiar to moms with toddlers. The album gets tykes bopping along to the rocking tunes, while teaching kids to sit during mealtimes, share with others, wash their hair and listen to their parents. Purchase your copy at www.cdbaby.com, and visit www.moeymusicparty.com to learn about Levis's classes and parties.



Looney Christmas Songs

Move over, Rudolph! This Christmas, Bugs Bunny and his friends lead the way to holiday fun with the CD *A Looney Tunes Sing-A-Long Christmas* (immergeant). The disc features favorite Looney Tunes characters singing along with a children's chorus to classic songs like "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "The 12 Days of Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman" and other holiday staples. The CD is now available for download on iTunes or for purchase wherever CDs are sold.

Notes of Compassion

If you were asked to write a few heartfelt words to someone but only had a minute to do so, what would you say? That is the question behind the Hallmark Channel's original movie *The Note*, which premieres December 8 at 9pm. The film follows a newspaper columnist who finds herself in possession of a scrap of paper containing a hastily written though heartfelt message from a plane passenger to his child, moments before the parent's flight crashes. The columnist sets out to deliver the note by Christmas and confronts some of her personal demons in the process. In preparation for the film, viewers may visit www.whatwouldyouwrite.com to share what they would write to loved ones if they only had one minute to express how they felt. Log on today!

Snuggly Helpers

IKEA®'s snuggly and soft toy animals are back on the shelves this holiday season, ready to help children in need. For every hippo, monkey, elephant, dragon or other animal purchased, IKEA will donate \$1 to UNICEF® and Save the Children®. Last year, the soft toy program raised \$3 million, and this year IKEA hopes to raise \$4 million. Visit www.ikea.com to find the IKEA store nearest you.



Handmade with Care

Gift-givers looking for unique present ideas will love the finds at www.etsy.com, the place to shop for all things handmade. The site offers tons of different products for adults and kids, including crocheted hats for babies, handcrafted earrings for moms and even personalized pet toys for animal friends. Find your perfect gift today by visiting www.etsy.com— your place to buy and sell all things handmade™.

Jazz-y and Swing-ing Kids

Parents who love jazz and swing, but who typically don't love kids music, will flip over *Jazz and Swing for Kids* (Genius + Love™). The ten-track CD features kid-friendly classics with a jazz and swing twist, including "Diddle Diddle Swing," "Old MacDonald Jazz Remix" and "Twinkle Twinkle Swingin' Star." Professional musicians dazzle kids and adults alike with powerful vocals, complex horn arrangements, rag-style piano music and pattering drums. Visit www.cduniverse.com to order your copy.

Dora and Diego

Popular kids shows *Dora the Explorer* and *Go, Diego, Go!* are now available in video game form for Nintendo DS. The games, rated E for Everyone and geared toward kids ages 3-6, allow players to lead their favorite characters on wild adventures. In *Dora the Explorer: Dora Saves the Mermaids*, Dora and Boots go on an adventure to bring a magic crown back to Mariana the Mermaid. In *Go, Diego, Go!: Safari Rescue*, Diego and his friends go on a mission to undo the mischief of a mean magician. Visit your local video game retailer for more information.

Christine Werthman is an assistant editor.