

INSIDE: SHOOTING STARS WINNERS REVEALED

L.A. Parent

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ENJOYING
HOLIDAYS
IN THE CITY

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shop talk

by Julie Kertes
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HANUKKAH, BOXED

My Jewish husband has the best Hanukkah intentions for our interfaith household. But when it comes to explaining this festival of lights to his little *shiksa*, he needs help. Jewish Holidays in a Box comes to the rescue with its **Hanukkah Kit** (\$47.95, www.jewishholidaysinabox.com), including a tutorial CD and booklet, dreidels, decorations and thank you cards.



COOL MACCA-BEATS

On *Chanukah Fever* (\$15, www.mamadoni.com), Doni Zasloff Thomas, a.k.a. Mama Doni, serves up “funky music with a Jewish twist,” covering everything from latkes to Sufganiyot (jelly-filled doughnuts), Hanukkah gelt to “La Vida Dreidel.”

A TOWN UNDER THE TREE

I've not come across a product from German toymaker Haba that I didn't like. **Habaland Play Blocks** (\$70, www.habausa.com) are no exception. The 25 beech wood blocks can be stacked to create a mini town, encouraging creative play and making them a skill-building gift choice this season.



TO GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE

Bring **Find It Games** (\$25, www.finditgames.com) on those long holiday car rides. In their new VeggieTales version you shake, turn and tilt the cylinder and objects from the popular children's program – including Bob the Tomato, Larry the Cucumber and Junior Asparagus – appear.



SMART STOCKING STUFFERS

Shoulder Buddies (\$5.99, www.shoulderbuddies.com) are collectible friends children can wear on their shoulders or affix to a hat or backpack. Each comes with a “smart” life lesson – from fire safety and combating frustration to saving money and teamwork.

