

Unique gifts are out of this world

IF THERE'S AN amateur astronomer on your Christmas list, you could give that person an out-of-the-world gift — a private observatory on a 40-acre site on the big island of Hawaii.

The starting price for this one-of-a-kind gift is about \$1 million. Unless you're a Getty or a Rockefeller, chances are this gift idea is unrealistic.

You still can surprise your favorite stargazer with a unique gift, however; one that won't wipe out your savings account. For \$70 you can give an individual the right to name a two-star cluster high in the universe. The name chosen by the recipient will be reported to the Library of Congress by the International Star Registry to make it official.

That's just one unusual idea Ruth Katz, a New York gift consultant, suggested. Ferreting out creative gift ideas is a year-round occupation for Katz. She finds them in press re-

leases, in catalogs, during visits to the gift building in New York City and on shopping excursions.

No one is impossible to shop for, Katz said. You just have to put a little thought into selecting the right gift.

FOR A person on a fixed income, Katz suggested buying a calendar and writing down all the family's birthdays, anniversaries and important dates.

"I'm going to give one to my grandmother," she said. "It'll have to be a Norman Rockwell calendar for her."

After Katz has noted all the dates to remember, she's going to clip \$5 phone service gift certificates to the calendar. That way Katz's grandmother can call her relatives without worrying about the expense.

"It's the perfect gift for her," said Katz, who suggests buying a calendar from an art museum or one to match a person's special interest.

Continued on Next Page



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