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Chabot Space & Science Center
"Your Place in the Universe"

OCTOBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2004
(Issued September 27, 2004)

This document and all Chabot Space & Science Center news releases and photos may be found online at www.chabot.space.org under Press room.

**** PUBLIC HOURS ****

Monday–Tuesday CLOSED
 Wednesday–Friday, 10 am – 5 pm;
 Friday & Saturday 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday 11am – 5 pm
 Closed 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas

Telescope Viewing
 Friday & Saturday, 7 – 10 pm (weather permitting)

Special Extended Holiday Hours
 Thanksgiving week and Christmas Break
 Check website for details

**** ADMISSION ****

\$13 Adult / \$9 Youth, Student & Senior
 Theater & Live Planetarium shows: \$6 Adult / \$5 Youth, Student & Senior
 Telescope viewing only: Free

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER — Indoor stargazing in Ask Jeeves Planetarium, outdoor viewing through telescopes, large format films in Tien MegaDome Theater, interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Open Wed. – Sun. Observatory hours Fri. & Sat., 7 - 10 pm. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300. www.chabot.space.org

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On the following pages:

Exhibits	page 2
Cultural Events	page 3
Special Events & Lectures	page 4
Activities & Workshops & Classes	pages 5
Planetarium Shows	page 6
Films	page 7
Facts and Directions	page 8

10000 Skyline Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619
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TRAVELING EXHIBITS

Dragon Skies: Astronomy of Imperial China — July 10, 2004 – January 2, 2005

Learn the secret knowledge of the Emperor in this new exhibit that tells the 5,000 year-old story of ancient China's astronomical achievements. This exhibit includes ancient artifacts, such as armillary spheres and oracle bones, and hands-on interactives that invite visitors to predict the future, interpret signs and measure time.

NEW EXHIBITS

Destination Universe — New permanent exhibit, opened September 18, 2004

Take a journey from our Sun to the farthest reaches of the cosmos! Along the way, you'll see where stars are born, how they die, meet nebulae of all kinds, and travel to distant galaxies. Experience the Origins Theater; crawl into a black hole; see what happens when galaxies collide; and view stunning space images!

A New Space Race: ANSARI X PRIZE — New permanent exhibit, opened August, 2004

Check out the latest rocket science and learn about the talented teams competing for a ten million dollar prize in the international X Prize competition. Experience the excitement of rocket flight and engine tests by viewing short video clips from X Prize competitors. Learn about the engineering strategies used by each team. Place your vote on how much you would pay to travel into suborbital space, and try launching a rocket yourself.

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Mars Encounter — The exhibit features a four-foot tactile Mars globe, complete with craters and volcanoes; a Martian meteorite; a Martian Sci-fi theater; a Mars Mission Control where visitors can obtain data on current and past missions; videos of Rover missions; a wall-size mural embedded with quiz games; a vacation to Mars planning station and a play area for the younger crowd. Sponsored by the National Aeronautics & Space Administration, with additional support from Microsoft, Inc.

One Giant Leap: A Moon Odyssey

For all astronaut wannabees— take a simulated Moon-walk, try on a space helmet, climb into a Mercury capsule, and land a lunar module in this new hands-on exhibit that explores the legends and science fiction about the Moon; the Space Race and the Moon landings; and the Earth-Moon system. Learn what the Moon is made of, how it affects the Earth, what causes Moon phases, gravity on the Moon, and more. You can even take a look at an ancient piece of the Moon up close! The exhibit includes space artifacts and replicas, from Sputnik and Mercury to Gemini and Apollo.

Skywise—Astronomy Cartoon Exhibit — Have you ever tried to picture how far the Sun is from Earth? Or wondered what the skies would look like from another place on Earth -- or another place in our Solar System? This exhibit of astronomy comic strips provides an entertaining and informative vehicle for discovering and understanding astronomical phenomena. The exhibit is made possible in part through support from the Ask Jeeves Foundation and *Sky & Telescope Magazine*.

Astronomy In California 1850–1950: Telescope Makers, Telescopes, and Artifacts — Explore California's rich astronomical history and Chabot Observatory's own 120-year history through a display of telescopes, artifacts, and the histories of their makers, on loan from the Smithsonian Institution.

CULTURAL EVENTS

Watercolor Painting Demonstration

Sunday, October 3, 1:30 pm
FREE with General Admission

Artist Pauline Tsui demonstrates the delicate art of Chinese watercolor.

Taoist Demonstration

Saturday, October 9, 12 noon & 2 pm
FREE with General Admission

A performance of Five Animal Qi Gong, tai ji Yang style.

O-Mei Martial Arts

Saturday, October 23 & Nov.13 11 am & 12 Noon
FREE with General Admission

Members from the O-Mei Kung Fu Academy demonstrates the art of O-Mei Kung Fu. This type of Kung Fu provides both external training for the body, and internal training to cultivate the individual's life energy. Founded and based in the O-Mei mountains in Sichuan province, O-Mei Kung Fu is composed of more than two hundred styles of martial arts in the Sichuan region, with a history of more than two thousand years.

Chinese Traditional Dance

Saturday, October 23, 2:00 pm
FREE with General Admission

The Patty Chu Dance Group performs a mixture of traditional Chinese folk dance. Each dance is a combination of technique and colorful costumes imported from China. The Chinese Folk Dance Association is the oldest folk dance company in the Bay Area.

Calligraphy Demonstration

Saturday, October 23, 12 Noon
FREE with General Admission

Artist Ming Chan demonstrates and creates special Dragon calligraphy. His style combines the beauty of gentleness and strength, liveliness and depth. He has been honored by Mayor Brown of San Francisco and was one of the most acknowledged calligraphist in Hong Kong before moving to Oakland.

Gu-zheung, Chinese Harp

Saturdays, October 30, 2:00 pm
FREE with General Admission

Mary Parker performs music with a Chinese table harp known as Gu-zheung. The instrument was popular as early as 475 – 221 BCE in west China. The performer plucks strings with the right hand while applying pressure with the left hand, resulting in music that is melodious and elegant.

Eth-No-Tec Performance

Sunday, November 14, 2 & 3 pm
FREE with General Admission

Eth-No-Tec tells the story of the ancient Chinese folktale about the Cowherd and the Weaver Girl.

Classical South Indian Dance & Music

Saturday, November 20, 12 Noon & 2 pm
FREE with General Admission

Dancer Swetha Dixit introduces children of all ages to Bharata Natyam, one of the classical dance forms from South India. Bharata Natyam combines, drama, music, poetry, and dance into a single art form. Her hands-on workshop teaches dance poses and hand gestures, demonstrates the instruments, and shows examples of dance costumes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Music Under the Stars: A Evening of Heavenly Harps *featuring Chinese, Medieval and Celtic Harp Music*

Saturday, October 16; 8 pm

Ask Jeeves Planetarium

Tickets:

Concert + General Admission: \$25 Adult / \$20 Youth & Seniors

Concert only: \$15 Nonmembers / \$12 Chabot Members, Youth, Students & Seniors

Tickets are available at Chabot's Box Office (510/336-7373)

Come hear some of the world's most beautiful harp music while a specially created planetarium show swirls above you. Tonight's program will feature master harpist Cui Junzhi on the Chinese "Konghou" harp and "Twin Harps" duo Diana Stork and Cheryl Ann Fulton playing on pairs of matching medieval and Celtic harps.

Total Lunar Eclipse

Wednesday, October 27; 7:45 – 10:45 pm

Tickets: \$10 Adult / \$7 Youth, Students & Seniors / \$5 Chabot Members

Lecture: \$6 Adult / \$5 Youth, Students & Seniors

Tickets are available at Chabot's Box Office (510/336-7373)

Enjoy the last lunar eclipse of the year on Chabot's Observatory deck. Admission includes access to all of the exhibits and telescope viewing. Learn about the history and lore of lunar eclipses in a lecture in the Ask Jeeves planetarium at 8 pm. (Separate ticket required.)

Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop

Wednesday, December 31, 2003, 3:45 - 5 pm

Free with general admission

Join us for our fourth annual Balloon Drop in the Rotunda to cheer the arrival of New Year 2004. At the stroke of 4:00 pm (midnight Greenwich Mean Time) celebrate the start of the real New Year with balloons dropping from our Rotunda, many filled with prizes. For all ages.

DISTINGUISHED LECTURES

October 2, 6 –10pm — Darryl Stanford, M.S., *Stars— from the Ordinary to the Bizarre*

Ask Jeeves Planetarium

Tickets: \$15.00, available through the Chabot box office, (510) 336-7373.

In conjunction with the UC Berkeley Extension Public Programs Series, take a trip with us to the stellar zoo to meet such denizens as the ubiquitous red dwarf, the most common star in our galaxy. Encounter rapidly rotating stars, pulsating stars, giant stars with huge starspots and other inhabitants of the stellar menagerie. *The Sky Tonight* planetarium show follows the lecture and telescope viewing is available, weather permitting. Mr Stanford has advanced degrees in astrophysics and condensed matter physics and lectures widely.

October 27, 8pm — Ryan Diduck, *The History and Lore of Lunar Eclipses*

Ask Jeeves Planetarium

Tickets: \$6 Adult / \$5 Youth, Students & Seniors

Available through the Chabot box office, (510) 336-7373.

Join us for a special evening as our resident astronomer tells us about lunar myths, history and facts. Afterwards, you may watch the actual lunar eclipse from our Observatory deck. (Separate ticket required – see above special event.)

November 20, 6 pm — Michael Schneider, M. Ed., *Reading the Book of Nature*

Tien MegaDome Theater

Tickets: \$5.00, available through the Chabot box office, (510) 336-7373

Simple geometric shapes like circles, triangles and spirals are letters in the alphabet with which the book of nature is written. Michael Schneider, author of *A Beginner's Guide to Constructing the Universe* will lead us on an illustrated journey through this intriguing language to show us how to read the interesting messages nature speaks in ordinary places.

WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Spotlights: Dragon Skies Activities

Through January 2; Saturday & Sundays, 11am – 4 pm
FREE with General Admission

Join us for *Dragon Skies* Spotlight activities where you can make a dragon, wrist watch sundial, paper star wheel, and water clock; see a demonstration on Armillary Spheres; and play a variety of Chinese games.

Garden Days in the EnviroGarden

2nd & 4th Saturday of each month, 12 noon – 4 pm
October 9 & 23, November 13 & 20, December 11

Join in fun hands-on activities and demonstrations in the EnviroGarden. Learn about air quality, gardening, composting, solar energy and more.

Daytime Telescope Viewing

Saturday & Sunday, 1 – 4 pm
FREE with General Admission

Don't wait until dark! View the sun, the moon, and the planets through the telescopes during the day.

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

Simulated Space Missions

Escape from the Red Planet!

Saturdays at 12:30 & 2:30; Sundays at 1:30 and 3:30

Children, ages 6-12 must be accompanied by an adult. Not appropriate for children under 6 years old.

Tickets: \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, available on a first come, first serve basis at the Chabot ticket desk

ALERT!! ALERT!! The shuttle you need to leave the surface of Mars has been severely damaged in a crash landing, your replacement crew is gone, a dust storm is approaching and air, food and water are extremely low...AND THE MISSION HASN'T STARTED YET! This is the scenario for Chabot's newest attraction, "Escape from the Red Planet". You are the crew of a doomed landing. Your mission: Get the shuttle working again and into orbit before you are hit with the worst dust storm ever recorded on Mars. These hour-long mini-missions are run in the Challenger learning Center, a simulated Mission Control and Space Capsule

Discovery Club

Wednesdays, 3:30 – 5pm, FREE, Registration required

This after-school workshop for children ages 4–8 to explores the theme “Our Place in the Universe.” Meet new friends, brainstorm, problem-solve, design, create, and explore the scientific process. For registration, contact Dionne Laffoon, Discovery Lab Instructor/Coordinator, at (510) 336-7362 or dlaffoon@chabotspace.org.

October 13— *What do you think you see?* Have fun with optical illusions.

October 27— *The Nine Children of the Sun:* Learn about the planets and the Solar System.

November 10— *Rock my World:* See into the nature of rocks.

December 1— *A Visit to Inner Space:* Discover unseen world through the use of microscopes.

December 15— *The Many Faces of The Moon:* Learn why the moon changes at night.

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Dragon Skies

Dragon Skies takes the viewer back to ancient times and tells the story of one court astronomer who is charged with the duty of teaching the Boy Emperor the harmony of the night sky.

Return to the Red Planet

The show includes a live presentation that will teach visitors how to find Mars in the current night sky; features the latest images from telescopes, orbiters, and rovers; includes breaking news from the NASA missions; and presents audiences with a timeline for exploration.

Ring World

RingWorld is a planetarium show about the Cassini-Huygens mission to the planet Saturn and its moons. Come along on a NASA space spectacular, a two billion mile odyssey to Saturn and its fascinating satellites, including a moon that may hold secrets to the rise of life on Earth. The show is narrated by Star Trek's John Billingsley.

Sunshine!

This 15 minute-long program lets the younger set interact with our closest star, The Sun, as he takes them through a quick look at the work he does all day and the many friends he has—the other stars!

The Sky Tonight — ongoing, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30pm

Presented live, the show is a current look at the stars, constellations, and planets from our perspective here in Oakland. The content of this show changes monthly. (40 min.)

Holiday Shows:

Count Astro's Haunted Heavens — (October 16–31) Count Astro takes you on a journey in the planetarium to visit various creepy critters in our skies. (20 min.)

For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

TIEN MEGADOME THEATER

Cosmic Voyage

A breathtaking journey through time and space! Zoom from the surface of the Earth to the largest observable structures of the Universe, and back down to the sub-nuclear realm—a guided tour across some 42 orders of magnitude! Explore some of the greatest scientific theories, many of which have never before been visualized on film. *Cosmic Voyage* was nominated for an Academy Award® in the Best Documentary Short Subject Category

The Human Body

The incredible story of our inner universe and looks at the daily biological processes that go on without our control and often without our notice. Peek inside and follow a tomato on its journey to the biological blender of our stomach, accompany a red blood cell on its journey to the heart and see the cells inside of an ear dance to music. A presentation by The Learning Channel (TLC) and BBC Worldwide of a Discovery Pictures/BBC co-production done in association with the Maryland Science Center and the Science Museum, London, with major funding provided by the National Science Foundation and distributed by nWave Pictures Distribution. (43 min)

The Living Sea

Take an action-packed journey to the depths of the oceans. Swim with jellyfish and whales, and meet strange creatures living on the bottom of the sea. The underwater wonders of our planet are explored in this film produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films, in association with Nauticus -The National Maritime Center, the Ocean Film Network, White Oak Associates, Inc., and Dr. Robert Ballard. (40 min)

Solarmax

Featuring live images of the Sun and footage from around the world of solar observatories of the past, present, and future, *SolarMax* tells of humankind's struggle to understand the Sun. Travel around the world to visit historical sites of sun worship, see scientists studying the Sun, and view the majesty of a total solar eclipse.

Holiday Shows:

Mysteries of Egypt — (December 18 – January 2) Soar over the great pyramids of Giza, cross the deathly quiet Valley of the Kings, and descend into the shadowy chambers of the sacred tomb of King Tut. A co-production of National Geographic Films and Destination Cinema.

For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at www.chabotspace.org

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER FACTS

- Location:** 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland (in the Oakland Hills)
- Hours:** Closed Mondays & Tuesdays; Wednesday–Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday–Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 11 am – 5 pm
(Closed Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year’s Day and other major holidays)
Telescope Viewing: 7 – 10 pm, weather permitting
- Admission::** **General admission** (includes a Planetarium show and free parking): \$13 Adult / \$9 Youth (ages 4-12), Students and Seniors (65+); Children 3 and under admitted free
MegaDome Theater Show only — \$6 Adult / \$5 Youth, Student & Senior
Sky Tonight Planetarium Show — \$6 Adult / \$5 Youth, Student & Senior
- Tickets:** Tickets may be purchased at the door, or by calling (510) 336-7373.
- Celestial Cafe:** Snacks available. Indoor and outdoor seating.
- Disabled Access:** Chabot Space & Science Center is wheelchair accessible. A limited number of wheelchairs are available without charge on site. Designated parking is available near the main entrance.
- Parking:** Convenient free parking is available in the adjacent parking structure or in the Knoll Lot off Skyline Blvd. Spaces for disabled visitors are located near the main entrance (outside of parking structure).
- Directions:** **** Please Note: Public transportation via AC Transit is no longer available****
From downtown Oakland or San Francisco: Go east on I 580 to Highway 24 (towards Walnut Creek). From 24, go south on Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) towards Hayward. Take the Joaquin Miller/ Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn left and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
From eastern Berkeley, Orinda etc.: Go south on Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) towards Hayward. Take the Joaquin Miller/ Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn left and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
From Hayward, Castro Valley and points East: Go west on I 580 and take the Highway 13 (Warren Freeway) turnoff. Take the Joaquin Miller/Lincoln Avenue exit. Turn right, and proceed up the hill on Joaquin Miller to the crest, then turn left at the signal onto the two-lane portion of Skyline Blvd. Chabot Space & Science Center is 1.3 miles up Skyline on the right.
- Info Phone:** (510) 336-7300
- Website:** www.chabotspace.org

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