



**MEDIA CONTACT:** Judyth Collin, (510) 336-7310  
jcollin@chabotsapce.org

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

**September, 2005 – December, 2005**  
**(Issued September 1, 2005)**

This document and all Chabot Space & Science Center news releases and photos may be found online at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org) under Press room.

**\*\* PUBLIC HOURS \*\***

Monday–Tuesday CLOSED  
Wednesday–Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm;  
Friday & Saturday 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday 11 am – 5 pm  
Closed 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas  
*Center Closed September 6 – 16 for annual maintenance*

**Telescope Viewing**

(weather permitting)

May - Oct: Friday & Saturday, dusk – 10 pm  
Oct – April: Friday & Saturday, 7 – 10 pm

**Special Extended Holiday Hours**

Thanksgiving week and Christmas Break  
Check website for details

**\*\* ADMISSION \*\***

\$13 Adult / \$9 Youth, Student & Senior  
Movies: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
Evening planetarium shows: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
Telescope viewing only: Free

**CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER** — Indoor stargazing in Ask Jeeves Planetarium, outdoor viewing through telescopes, giant screen films in Tien MegaDome Theater, interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300. [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

\* \* \*

**On the following pages:**

<b>Exhibits</b>	page 2
<b>Special Events</b>	page 3 - 4
<b>Hands-On Activities</b>	page 5
<b>Workshops &amp; Classes</b>	pages 6
<b>Planetarium Shows</b>	page 7
<b>Films</b>	page 8
<b>Facts and Directions</b>	page 9

10000 Skyline Boulevard  
Oakland, California 94619  
Phone: 510-336-7300  
[www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

## **OPENING EXHIBITS**

### **Designed for Space Travel**—OPENS October 15, 2005

Get a behind-the-scenes peek as Chabot's collection of space artifacts is restored. Find out how spacesuits and other equipment work to protect astronauts from the harsh environment of outer space. Learn about space food and the factors considered about how to package it for space travel. Learn the history of the artifacts and what conditions threaten their long-term preservation. Watch how Chabot staff and volunteers prepare these artifacts for future exhibitions in the Space Artifact Lab.

## **ONGOING EXHIBITS**

**Solar-Go-Round** — Take a tour of the Solar System, from the radiant Sun and the ringed planet Saturn, to giant Jupiter and far-away Pluto. Discover what makes the planets go round, then design a solar system and launch your planets into orbit. Find out how rocks from outer space can change a planet's surface and climate, then try making craters yourself. Hunt for signs of water on other planets, find out about the weather on Mars and Titan, and learn how telescopes and robotic spacecraft are helping us explore our planetary neighbors.

**Destination Universe** — 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!

**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.

**Einstein's Telescope** In celebration of the one hundred year anniversary of Einstein's famous 'Magic Year' of 1905, see a telescope that belonged to Einstein, on display in the Rotunda

### **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.

**A New Space Race: ANSARI X PRIZE** — Check out the latest rocket science and learn about the talented teams that competed for the ten million dollar prize in the international X Prize competition. Try "launching" a rocket yourself, place your vote on how much you would pay to travel into suborbital space, view short video clips from the competitors, and learn about engineering strategies used by each team.

**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.

**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*.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **Lunar Lounge Express**

Friday, September 23, 8 - 11 pm

Tickets: \$20 Regular / \$15 Student; Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Party under the stars and enjoy an evening of food, beverages, live performances, music, movie shorts, a SonicVision planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits, giveaways and outta-this-world fun!

### **Space Station Mars**

Book launch party with Daniel San Souci

Sunday, September 25, 2:00 pm

FREE with General Admission, especially for ages 4 - 8

Join popular Bay Area children's author Daniel San Souci as he reads from his new book about the clubhouse crew and their quest to find flying saucers and make contact with Martians.

### **Buki the Clown**

Sunday, October 2, 1 - 4 pm

FREE with General Admission

A Children's fairyland favorite, Buki brings instant smiles with her magic, balloon animals and face painting.

### **Just Kidding Music**

Sunday, October 9, 1 pm and 2 pm

FREE with General Admission

Children will enjoy a hands-on journey into traditional American music using washboards, sandblocks, gutbuckets, shakers, and spoons!

### **Magic By Alex**

Sunday, October 16, 1 pm and 2 pm

FREE with General Admission

Doves, scarves, cards, sticks and ropes appear and disappear under the sleight-of-hand magic hand of Alex. Named the 2004 National Teenage Champion Magician, Alex will mesmerize you with his charming magic.

### **Magician Norman Ng**

Sunday, October 23, 1 pm

FREE with General Admission

Master of possible impossibilities and winner of national and international magic awards, Norman Ng will wow you with his awe-inspiring magic, using every card in the deck.

### **Mars Lecture and Telescope Viewing**

Thursday, October 27, 7 - 10 pm

Tickets: \$8 Nonmember / \$7 Member; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

Is there life on Mars? Just how close is 43 million miles? Hear about the Red planet and the what the Mars Exploration Rovers have discovered and then go out to the Observatory deck and view Mars through Chabot's telescopes.

### **Lunar Lounge Express**

Friday, October 28, 8 pm - midnight

Tickets: \$20 Regular / \$15 Student; Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Party under the stars, come in costume and view the Red planet as it makes its second closest approach in 60,000 years. Enjoy an evening of food, beverages, live performances, music, movie shorts, a SonicVision planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits, giveaways and outta-this-world fun!

### SPECIAL EVENTS (continued)

#### Mars Mania Family Costume Party

Saturday, October 29, 8 pm - midnight

Tickets: Nonmembers: \$13 Adult / \$9 Youth, Student & Senior; Chabot members \$7 Adult / \$6 Youth, Student & Senior  
Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Party like a Martian, come in costume and view the Red planet as it makes its second closest approach in 60,000 years. The evening includes spooky science experiments, hands-on activities, a visit with the AstroWizard, Halloween planetarium show, Mars Encounter exhibit, scavenger hunts, prizes, telescope viewing and more!

#### Mars Telescope Viewing (weather permitting)

Sunday, October 31, 8 – 11 pm

Tickets: \$5; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

See Mars for yourself as the Red Planet makes its second closest approach in 60, 000 years!

#### The Big Bang

Lecture and book signing by Simon Singh

Saturday, November 5, 7 pm

Tickets: \$7 Nonmember / \$6 Member; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

From early creation myths to the orbiting of space telescopes, Dr. Simon Singh, best selling author and award-winning documentary filmmaker, will give a historical overview of the scientific effort that resulted in the theory of the Big Bang. Singh gives a colorful history of the people behind the theory, where the ideas came from and how the theory developed over the years.

#### Skywatchers of Ancient Mexico

Lecture by Dr. Anthony Aveni

Saturday, November 12, 6 – 8 pm

Tickets: \$8 Nonmember / \$6 Member; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

Dr. Aveni, one of the foremost authorities on Maya archeoastronomy, will present a lecture and slideshow about the role Venus played in the Maya culture, how the Maya tracked the planet, their calendar system, what the hieroglyphs tell us, and the role of astronomical alignments in their architecture. The Maya priest-astronomers were able to accurately predict solstices, solar eclipses, the path of the Sun, the transits of Venus and other celestial phenomena using very simple tools and their naked eye. The lecture will simultaneously be translated into Spanish, and is preceded by The Search for Life: Are We Alone planetarium show.

#### Annual New Year's Eve Balloon Drop

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

Free with General Admission. *Space is limited, advance tickets required.*

Tickets available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Join us for our fifth annual Balloon Drop to cheer the arrival of New Year 2006. At the stroke of 4:00 pm (midnight Greenwich Mean Time) celebrate the start of the real New Year with music and balloons dropping from our Rotunda, many filled with prizes. Children ages 5 and under are invited to their own balloon drop in the Discovery Lab.

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

## **WEEKEND HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

### **Garden Days in the EnviroGarden**

Saturdays, Sept. 24, Oct 8 & 22; Nov 12 & 26; Dec. 10; 12 noon – 4 pm  
FREE with General Admission

Come join in the fun as Chabot's Environmental Team of staff, interns and volunteers help you explore some of the mysteries of planet Earth. Every Saturday afternoon during the fall you'll have the opportunity to learn more about Earth's atmosphere, solar energy, our surrounding redwood forest, and composting with worms. Build a solar car, take a hike in the forest, have fun with worms or learn about tornados and volcanoes.

### **Solar System Hands-On Fun**

September 17 – December 31; Saturday & Sundays, 1 – 4 pm  
FREE with General Admission

Make Solar System bracelets, have fun with comets, create a Moon book, learn about the Solar System and more in these afternoon drop-in activities.

### **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.

### **Discovery Lab**

The Discovery Lab is a place especially for the younger crowd, ages 3–8  
FREE with General Admission; drop-in lab  
Saturdays, 11am – 4:30 pm; Sundays, Noon – 4:30 pm

A hands-on, open lab, an environment where you and your child can interact through play and inquiry take time out to experience and explore, stop and think and wonder, spend time together, listen to a story, try on a costume, have fun with friends and clean up when done!

**Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)**

## WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

### Adult Observational Astronomy Class

Sunday evenings, September 18 – October 30, 7:30 pm – 10 pm (no class Oct. 9)

Fee: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members; Reservations required. Class space is limited, so reserve your place early!  
To register, call 510-336-73421 or [srogers@chabotspace.org](mailto:srogers@chabotspace.org).

A six-week astronomy course designed especially for adults who want to learn more about observing with telescopes and binoculars. This hands-on class will cover the mechanics and characteristics of telescopes & binoculars, constellation and object identification, and the use of star charts. Using Chabot's portable telescopes, participants will learn the skills used to enjoy the night sky.

### Introduction to Celestial Navigation

Thursdays, October 27 – November 17, 7:00 - 9:00 pm

Fee: \$85 for members, \$95 for non-members; Reservations required. Class space is limited, so reserve your place early!  
To register, call 510-336-73421 or [srogers@chabotspace.org](mailto:srogers@chabotspace.org).

In this four-session evening class, you will learn the basics of the centuries-old technique of Celestial Navigation, the art and science of finding one's way around on the Earth by observing celestial objects. In a mixture of presentations, hands-on activities, and exploration of the night sky, you will learn to recognize and use some of the basic navigational stars and constellations, how to operate a sextant and use its measurements to pinpoint your location on Earth, and a bit of the history of some ancient peoples who used the stars to guide them across the Earth.

You do not need background knowledge in astronomy, navigation, or geography to take this class: the basics of the motions of the sky and positions on Earth will be covered. (Basic mathematical skills are a plus.) You do not need to bring any materials or equipment, but if you have a star finder, a pair of binoculars, or a flashlight, bring them along.

### 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](mailto:dlaffoon@chabotspace.org).

For ages 3 ½ - 5:

September 21— *Water, Water Everywhere*: Find out where water comes from and why we need it..

October 12— *Things That Move and Go*: Learn about motion and create a toy that moves and makes sound.

November 9— *Kitchen Chemistry*: Make things that ooze, bubble, foam and more..

December 7— *The Nine Planets and the Sun*: Learn about the planets and the Solar System

For ages 5 1/2 - 8:

September 28— *Water, Water Everywhere*: Find out where water comes from and why we need it..

October 26— *Things That Move and Go*: Learn about motion and create a toy that moves and makes sound.

November 16— *Kitchen Chemistry*: Make things that ooze, bubble, foam and more..

December 14— *The Nine Planets and the Sun*: Learn about the planets and the Solar System

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

## ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

### New Evening Shows:

#### **Immersive Space: Journey Through the Cosmos—(Opens Friday, October 7 at 8pm)**

Experience the Digital Universe in our new full-dome system as it whisks you to the nearest star and beyond in merely seconds. Travel 1,000 light years to Orion; 2 million light years to the Andromeda galaxy, home to a super massive black hole; and 10 million light years to other galaxies in our Local Group. Journey further to the edge of the known universe and take a peek at what's on the other side. (40 min)

### Special Holiday Shows:

**Count Astro's Haunted Heavens—(Saturday and Sunday, October 15–30)**— In this special Halloween show, Count Astro takes you on a journey in the planetarium to visit various creepy critters in our skies. (20 min.)

**The Alien Who Stole Christmas—(Saturday and Sunday, December 10 – Jan. 2)**— Explore the constellations in the winter sky and then hop aboard a flying saucer with Santa Claus and his new friend, Mr. Freep. Join them as they explore the planets in our Solar System in this delightful holiday adventure. Recommended for families with young children.

### Continuing Shows:

**The Sky Tonight**— Presented live and in the new digital format, 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.)

**Sonic Vision**—Sonic Vision is a trip out of this world and into the minds of the universe's most creative musical artists and digital animators, set to a soundtrack featuring today's coolest music. This mind-warping roller-coaster ride is mixed by Moby and features tracks from Radiohead, U2, David Bowie, Coldplay, Queens of the Stone Age, Prodigy, The Flaming Lips, Fischerspooner, Spiritualized, Audioslave, Stereolab, Boards of Canada, David Byrne and Brian Eno, Goldfrapp, Zwan, White Zombie, and Moby. The show uses next-generation digital technology to illuminate the Planetarium's dome with a dazzling morphing of colorful visions in this one-of-a-kind computer-generated musical and visual experience. *SonicVision was developed by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with Moby and in association with MTV2. SonicVision is made possible by generous sponsorship and technology support from Sun Microsystems.* (38 min) *Portions of the show feature loud music and large fast moving images that may startle small children.*

**The Search for Life: Are We Alone?** — Narrated by Academy Award-nominated actor Harrison Ford, this engrossing immersive theater experience whisks you on an incredible journey in search of the answer to this most intriguing question. This exhilarating voyage from the depths of Earth's oceans to the outer reaches of the cosmos features breathtaking visualizations—many seen for the first time—such as a brilliant panorama of deep space, a walk on Mars and a dramatic visualization of the formation of our own fragile planet. *The Search for Life: Are We Alone? was developed by the American Museum of Natural History in collaboration with the National Aeronautic and Space Administration (NASA).*

**Secret of the Cardboard Rocket** — Two young adventurers turn an old cardboard box into a rocket and with the help of a magical book and their vivid imaginations blast off on an awesome journey to the most amazing places in the Solar System. Gasp in amazement at the huge planet Jupiter, find out what Saturn's rings are made of and discover the secret of the cardboard rocket. The show has been upgraded for digital full-dome systems and provides an excellent introduction to the nine planets of our Solar System. Especially for ages 5 – 10.

**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! (15 min)

For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

## **TIEN MEGADOME THEATER**

### **CONTINUING SHOWS:**

**Forces of Nature** — Witness the awesome power and the unimaginable destruction of explosive volcanoes, ground-buckling earthquakes, and deadly tornadoes as you head into the field with scientists who risk their lives exploring the origins and behaviors of these fearsome natural disasters. Narrated by Kevin Bacon. *A National Geographic Film, produced by Graphic Films, made possible by Amica Insurance and funded in part by the National Science Foundation.* (40 min)

### **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. (40 min)

### **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 ocean. Swim with jellyfish and whales, surf thundering waves, and meet strange creatures living at the bottom of the sea. Featuring songs and music by Sting and narrated by Meryl Streep. *Produced by MacGillivray Freeman Films* (45 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. (40 min)

**For showtimes, visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)**

## CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER FACTS

- Location:** 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland (in the Oakland Hills)
- Hours:** **Regular Hours:** Closed Mondays & Tuesdays; Wednesday–Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday–Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm  
**Summer Hours, July 5 – Sept. 5:** Closed Monday; Tuesday–Thursday, 10 am – 5 pm; Friday–Saturday, 10 am – 10 pm; Sunday, 11am – 5 pm  
(Closed July 4, Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year’s Day and other major holidays)  
**Telescope Viewing:** May - October 30: dusk – 10pm; November - April, 7 – 10 pm
- 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** — \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
**Weekend Evening Planetarium Shows** — \$8 Adult / \$7 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. Hours: Tues – Fri, 10:30 – 2:30; Sat, 10 – 7; Sun, 12 -5
- 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](http://www.chabotspace.org)

Visit the Chabot Space & Science Center website at [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)