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

March 2005 – June, 2005
(Issued March 7, 2005)

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 11 am – 5 pm
Closed Thanksgiving, Christmas & July 4

Telescope Viewing

Thru April 2: Friday & Saturday, 7 – 10 pm (weather permitting)
April 8 – Oct 30: Friday & Saturday, dusk – 10 pm (weather permitting)

Special Extended Holiday Hours

Spring Break (March 28 – April 1)
10 am – 5 pm

**** ADMISSION ****

\$13 Adult / \$9 Youth, Student & Senior
Movies & Live 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, 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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10000 Skyline Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619
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www.chabot.space.org

EXHIBITS

Mirror Mirror — through June 5, 2005

Direct from Switzerland, *Mirror Mirror* contains over thirty interactive exhibits from the internationally famed Swiss science museum, Technorama. In this exhibition, curved mirrors distort, shrink or magnify your reflection and a flexible flat mirror undulates to reflect an almost hallucinogenic wobbly world. From kaleidoscopes to mirror mazes to mirages, visitors of all ages can reflect on the intriguing and surprising world that exists just beyond the looking glass.

NEW—**Solar-Go-Round** — OPENS July 9, 2005

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

ONGOING EXHIBITS

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.

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

Sun-Earth Day: Ancient Observatories, Timeless Knowledge

Sunday, March 20, 12 Noon – 5 pm

Activities free with General Admission

This year's themes features solar alignments with structures that mark the equinoxes and/or solstices. The program will feature several sites including: Chaco Canyon (New Mexico), Hovenweep (Utah), and Chichen Itza (Mexico). Many of these sites present unique opportunities to develop authentic cultural connections to Native Americans, highlighting the importance of the Sun across the ages. Activities at Chabot on this day will include solar viewing, live webcast of a solar alignment from Mexico (1 – 2:45 pm), sun videos, various hands-on activities and demos, and planned showings of the large format film *Solarmax* and the planetarium show *By the Light of the Sun*.

Science Fair Display

Wednesday & Thursday, March 23 & 24, 10 am – 5 pm

Free with General Admission

View entries to the Oakland Unified School District's annual science fair.

Forces of Nature Lecture & Screening

Friday, April 8, 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$15 Adult / \$12 Youth & Senior; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

Geophysicist Ross Stein anticipated the rumblings of Turkey's North Anatolian Fault and with his USGS and Turkish colleagues, forecast the 1999 devastating earthquake. Illustrated by computer animation and slides, his talk will focus on why Turkey is so important to the future of earthquake forecasting, and why earthquake forecasters are so concerned about the future of Istanbul—one of the world's greatest cities. He will also talk about the architectural, scientific, historical, and political significance of Aya Sofia, the cathedral/mosque/museum that is so beautifully photographed in the film, and on the difficulties confronted by a scientist trying to warn people about the risks they face while trying to work ethically in a developing country. The presentation is followed by a screening of the film.

Earth Day & Astronomy Day Celebration

April 16, 11 am – 5pm

Activities Free with General Admission

Celebrate Earth Day at Chabot Space & Science Center and explore the atmosphere, energy science, watersheds, native plants, solar energy and more. Visitors will be invited to learn about the tools scientists use to study Earth's climate; build weather monitoring station instruments; race a solar car; cook with solar energy; examine creatures in a pond sample; view a worm composting system in action; make insect rubbings to take home; build projects out of recycled materials and view images of Earth from space.

Astronomy activities throughout the day include the use of solar telescopes, daytime viewing of the Sun, the Moon and Venus, finding your birthday star, telescope making with jello lenses, and learning how telescopes work. We will also hold a drawing for a Meade ETX-90AT telescope on that Saturday evening. The drawing is sponsored by Astronomy Magazine. In addition, all the names from each of the drawings will be collected and entered into a drawing for the grand prize: a state-of-the-art Meade 10" LX200GPS SmartMount Telescope.

Hubble 15th Anniversary

Monday, April 25, time TBA

April of this year marks the 15th Anniversary of the deployment of NASA's most productive science mission of all time, the Hubble Space Telescope. To commemorate this milestone, science centers in the USA will participate in the national unveiling and display of one of the greatest astronomical images ever (and probably the largest Hubble print ever seen).

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

HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES

Garden Days in the EnviroGarden

Saturdays, 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 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.

Discovery Lab

The Discovery Lab is a place especially for the younger crowd, ages 3–7

FREE with General Admission; drop-in lab

Wednesday & Thursday, 1– 3 pm; Friday, 1 – 4:30 pm; Saturday, 10:30 am – 4:30 pm; Sunday, 12 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!

Monthly themes:

March — **Capture the Wind:** Test the wind and make things fly.

April — **Building Blocks, Towers and Bridges:** Build a variety of structures using many different materials.

May — **Magic of Math:** Have fun with brain-teasers and simple math problems.

June — **June Bugs:** Take a closer look at insects..

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

WORKSHOPS AND CLASSES

Adult Beginning Astronomy Class

Sunday evenings, April 10 – May 15, 7:30 pm – 10 pm

Fee: \$65 for members, \$75 for non-members. Class space is limited. To register, call 510-336-731.

A six-week astronomy course designed especially for adults who are curious about the universe surrounding them and want to learn more! This is a basic, non-mathematical class surveying the general concepts of astronomy. Learn the constellations, how planets, stars and galaxies are formed and the latest theories about the universe. Topics covered include History of Astronomy, the Solar System, Galaxy Formation, Stellar Evolution, Cosmology and Modern Astronomy. The class makes use of the classroom, Ask Jeeves Planetarium and Observatories.

Discovery Club

Every other 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, call at (510) 336-7362 or email dlaffoon@chabotspace.org.

- March 9— ***Things That Fly***: Test the force of the wind, then design and fly a craft that moves with the wind.
- March 23— ***The Many Faces of the Moon***: Learn about the phases of the Moon.
- April 13— ***Rocket Design***: Design a rocket and launch your own pop-rockets and balloon rockets.
- April 27— ***Kitchen Chemistry***: Make your own ice cream in a bag and butter in a jar.
- March 23— ***The Many Faces of the Moon***: Learn about the phases of the Moon.
- May 11— ***Bugs***: Explore the world of worms, crickets and more.
- May 25— ***Party Time***: Dress up, free-play and party-on with a full room of activities.

The Right Stuff : Challenger Learning Center Summer Camps

July 5 - 8; August 15 - 19

Youth entering grades 6-8

To register, call 510-336-7311 or visit www.chabotspace.org/visit/programs/summercamps.asp

Do you have the right stuff to go to Mars? In this simulated space mission, we provide a week of intensive morning trainings that cover what it takes to become an astronaut, what you might expect to see and do if you were the first astronaut to land on Mars, what our solar system looks like and how you might get a glimpse of it. After training, we'll send you to Mars! You'll get to see first hand how you measure up! Then we'll send you on a mission where you will send a probe thru the tail of a comet! When the dust settles, you'll know if you do indeed have “The right stuff.”

Space Explorers Summer Camps

July 11 – August 26

Youth entering grades 1-8

To register, call 510-336-7311 or visit www.chabotspace.org/visit/programs/summercamps.asp

Send your children on an unforgettable summer adventure! Your junior scientist can explore the Moon, have fun in the Sun, create chemical concoctions, learn all about stars, encounter Mars and more. All camps include a planetarium and theater show. Half-day camps run from 9am - Noon and 1 pm - 4 pm. Full-day camps run from 9am - 4 pm. Camps include Kitchen Chemistry, Cosmic Camp, Spaceship Earth, Star Light-Star Bright, Mars Camp, Disaster Camp, Fun in the Sun, and Robotics. Fees vary depending on Chabot member status and registration date (ranging from \$185-225 for half-day and \$325-375 for full day). Discounts given for multiple sessions. Extra fee for after hours care, 4pm - 5 pm.

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

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Upcoming: New full-dome digital projection system opens July 2, 2005

Destiny of the Stars — (CLOSES March 24) — The lives of the stars unfold before us in the winter sky, from star birth to star death, including a look at the final fate of our own sun.

Other Worlds! Other Beings? — (Opens March 25 – June 19) — If aliens really are out there, what would they be like? Join a team of scientists in their search for other worlds and their thinking inhabitants. *Written and developed by the SETI Institute*

Sky Quest — (Opens March 25 – June 19)— Come along with a young woman on her personal quest to find a special place in the night sky, from her childhood adventures on “Mars” (via a cardboard rocket), to the discovery of her “birthday star” that led her to become an astronomer and build a mountain observatory. Narrated by Roxanna Dawson, who played B'Elanna Torres of TV's *Star Trek: Voyager*.

Ring World— through June 19

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! — ongoing

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.)

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

TIEN MEGADOME THEATER

ONGOING 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— (Opens July 9, 2005)

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

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, 11am – 5 pm
(Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year’s Day and other major holidays)
Telescope Viewing: 7 – 10 pm, weather permitting; beginning April 8. dusk – 7pm)
- 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
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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