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

**September, 2006 – December, 2006**  
**(Issued August 31, 2006)**

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 5 – 15 for annual maintenance*

Telescope Viewing

**(weather permitting)**

May - Oct: Friday & Saturday, dusk – 10:30 pm  
Nov – April: Friday & Saturday, 7:30 – 10:30 pm

**Special Extended Holiday Hours**

Thanksgiving week and Winter Holiday Break  
Check website for details

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

\$13 Adult / \$10 Student & Senior /\$9 Youth (4 – 12)  
Movies: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
Evening planetarium shows: \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
Evening telescope viewing only: Free

**CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER** — Indoor stargazing in full-dome digital planetarium, outdoor viewing through telescopes, large format films in MegaDome Theater, interactive exhibits and hands-on activities. Open Wed. – Sun. Observatory hours Fri. & Sat., dusk – 10:30 pm. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300. [www.chabotspace.org](http://www.chabotspace.org)

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**On the following pages:**

<b>Special Events</b>	page 2
<b>Weekend Hands-On Activities</b>	page 3
<b>Exhibits</b>	page 4
<b>Planetarium Shows</b>	page 5
<b>Films</b>	page 6
<b>Facts and Directions</b>	page 7

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

## **SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **An Afternoon Lecture with Rusty Schweickart**

“Are We Still Dinosaurs? The Asteroid Test – Protecting the Earth from the Next Big Collision”

Sunday, September 24; 4 pm; Seating is limited.

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

Rusty Schweickart, Apollo 9 Astronaut and Chairman of the Association of Space Explorers Committee on Near Earth Objects, will talk about the risk to Earth from rocks in space that are hurtling by our planet and the things we can do about it.

### **Lunar Lounge**

Friday, September 22; 8pm - midnight

Tickets: \$15 Regular / \$10 Student; Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Party under the stars and enjoy an evening of live music, a SonicVision or live planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits, giveaways and outta-this-world fun! Musical guest is the Kevin Beadles Band, with a sound that is rootsy American rock.

### **Lunar Lounge Halloween Party**

Friday, October 27; 8pm - midnight

Tickets: \$15 Regular / \$10 Student; Available at the Chabot Box Office, 510-336-7373

Come dressed in costume, party under the stars and enjoy an evening of live music, a SonicVision or live planetarium show, telescope viewing, hands-on exhibits, giveaways and outta-this-world fun! Musical guest is Flying Venus, an 80's retro sound with a fresh twist and fishnets.

### **Spooky Science Halloween Party**

Saturday, October 28; 10 am – 4 pm

FREE with General Admission

Bats, spiders and slime – oh my! Come dressed in costume, drink some spooky punch and participate in hands-on activities. Enjoy guest appearances by the Astro Wizard and other costumed friends.

### **Transit of Mercury**

Wednesday, November 8, 11 am – 4 pm

FREE with General Admission

View this relatively rare journey of Mercury as it crosses in front of the face of the Sun, as viewed from Earth. Visitors can see the progress on the Center's TV monitors and participate in hands-on floor activities. The next occurrence of this event won't happen for another ten years.

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

Sunday, December 31, 2006, 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 annual Balloon Drop to cheer the arrival of New Year 2007. 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**

### **Explorers Hands-On Fun**

Saturdays, 10am – 6 pm

FREE with General Admission

These fun hands-on activities invite you to make a dry ice comet, become a mineral detective, experiment with a vacuum chamber, learn about ultraviolet light and which sunblock works the best, discover the secrets of how telescopes work, race a solar car, and handle red-wiggler worms. Activities vary per weekend.

### **Discovery Lab**

The Discovery Lab is a place especially for the younger crowd, ages 2–7

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, spend time together, listen to a story, try on a costume, have fun with friends and clean up when done!

### **Daytime Telescope Viewing** (weather permitting)

Saturday & Sunday, 11am – 5 pm (subject to change)

FREE with General Admission

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

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

## EXHIBITS

### Astronomy In California 1850–1950: Telescope Makers, Telescopes, and Artifacts — *through Jan. 1*

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.

## ONGOING EXHIBITS

### Chabot Observatories: A View to the Stars

A new exhibit in the observatory domes explores the history of the Chabot Observatories and how its historic telescopes continue to be used today. Daytime visitors can operate a virtual telescope, experiment with mirrors and lenses to understand how telescopes create images of distant objects, and travel through more than a century of Chabot's history via multimedia kiosks, historical images, and artifact displays.

### Designed for Space Travel

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 in packaging. Watch Chabot staff and volunteers prepare these artifacts for long term preservation in the Space Artifact Lab.

Solar-Go-Round — Take a tour of the Solar System, from the radiant Sun and the ringed planet Saturn, to giant Jupiter and the far-away dwarf-planet 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 NASA, 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.

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*.

## PLANETARIUM SHOWS

### Special Holiday Shows:

**Count Astro's Haunted Heavens**—(Saturday and Sunday, October 14–29) — 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.)

### New Shows:

**Legends of the Night Sky: Orion**—(Opens November 24 – February 25)

In the world's first full-dome traditionally animated movie, viewers are taken on a fun-filled and imaginative look at the myths and stories associated with the constellation Orion, the great hunter of the winter sky. Narrated by the animated characters Aesop the owl and Socrates the mouse, audiences follow Orion's adventures as he grows to manhood, battles mythical beasts, foils the plot of an evil king and wins the heart of Artemis, the beautiful moon-goddess. By the end of the story, viewers learn how the constellation Orion was placed in the sky, forever turning overhead throughout the seasons. Especially for ages 10 and under. *Produced by AVI and Spitz, Inc. in association with Minolta Planetarium Company, Ltd., and distributed by Spitz, Inc.* (24 min)

### Continuing Daytime Shows:

**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. (40 min)

**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. (30 min)

**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)

### Evening Shows:

**The Sky Tonight**— Saturdays, 8 pm. 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.)

**Immersive Space: Journey Through the Cosmos**— Friday, 8 pm. 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)

**Sonic Vision**—Friday & Saturday, 9:15 pm. 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, and others. (38 min) *Portions of the show feature loud music and large fast moving images that may startle small children.*

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

## MEGADOME THEATER

Special Limited Engagement

**An Inconvenient Truth** — (Oct. 6 – 29)

Former Vice-President Al Gore examines the scientific evidence for global warming in this feature-length documentary film. Interspersed with anecdotes from his own life, Gore makes a compelling case for the phenomenon and suggests ways to halt the effect on the planet and its inhabitants. (1hr 40 min)

**SolarMax** — (through Nov. 19) — 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)

**Mysteries of Egypt** — (Nov. 24 – February 25) — 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.* (40 min)

### 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 it's journey to the biological blender of our stomach, accompany a red blood cell on it's 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)

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

## CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, Sept 2006 - Dec 2006 — p. 7

### 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, 12 Noon – 5 pm  
(Closed July 4<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year’s Day and other major holidays)  
**Telescope Viewing (weather permitting):** through Oct 28, dusk – 10:30 pm; Nov – April 7:30 – 10:30 pm
- Admission:** **General admission** (includes a Planetarium show and free parking): \$13 Adult / \$10 Students and Seniors (65+); \$9 Youth (ages 4-12); Children 3 and under admitted free  
**MegaDome Theater Show only** — \$8 Adult / \$7 Youth, Student & Senior  
**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.
- 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)

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