



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

December, 2006 - March 31, 2007
(Issued December 1, 2006)

This document and all Chabot Space & Science Center news releases and photos may be found online at www.chabotspace.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
Thanksgiving & Christmas

Telescope Viewing

Friday & Saturday, 7:30 - 10:30 pm (weather permitting)

Special Extended Holiday Hours

Winter Break
Check website for details

**** ADMISSION ****

\$13 Adult / \$10 Student & Senior / \$9 Youth
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, large format films in Tien MegaDome Theater, interactive exhibits and hands-on activities.

Open Wed. - Sun. Observatory hours Fri. & Sat., 7:30 - 10:30 pm weather permitting. 10000 Skyline Blvd., Oakland. (510) 336-7300. www.chabotspace.org

* * *

On the following pages:

Exhibits	page 2-3
Special Events	page 4
Weekend Hands-On Activities	page 5
Workshops & Classes	pages 6
Planetarium Shows	page 7-8
Films	page 9
Facts and Directions	page 10

10000 Skyline Boulevard
Oakland, California 94619
Phone: 510-336-7300
www.chabotspace.org

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 2

OPENING EXHIBITS

In the Dark —OPENS February 3, 2007

Prepare to immerse yourself in the darkness! This hands-on interactive exhibit will help you explore and explain the mysteries of Earth's dark ecosystems and the unique life forms that inhabit them. Wander through a nocturnal forest past glowing mushrooms, and discover the amazing underground worlds beneath basement floors and backyards. Fragile cave ecosystems provide a labyrinth of adventure. Take the plunge to explore the unique life deep in the oceans. Finally, discover how darkness has intrigued and influenced humans for thousand of years, and how we can help preserve fragile worlds without light. *In the Dark is a traveling exhibit produced by Cincinnati Museum Center.*

CLOSING EXHIBITS

Astronomy In California 1850-1950: Telescope Makers, Telescopes, and Artifacts — through Jan. 7

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.

A New Space Race: ANSARI X PRIZE — through Jan. 7

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.

Mars Encounter — Through Jan. 7 (parts of the exhibit will be relocated to our Tien MegaDome Lobby)

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.*

ONGOING EXHIBITS

Chabot Observatories: A View to the Stars

Explore the history of the Chabot Observatories and how its historic telescopes are used today. Daytime visitors can virtually operate a 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 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.

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 3

ONGOING EXHIBITS CONTINUED

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!

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*.

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 4

SPECIAL EVENTS

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 7th 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.

Lunar Lounge Express Nights

Friday, January 26, February 23, March 23; 8 - 11 pm;

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

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

"Love Mission" to Mars

Saturday, February 10, 3:30 & 5:30; Sunday, February 11, 1:30 & 3:30

Tickets: \$75 per couple; available at the Box Office, 510-336-7373

Celebrate with your Valentine and take a simulated space mission to the Red Planet. Includes chocolates, fizzy beverage, and a souvenir of your trip to outer space.

Celebrating Black History

Saturday, February 17, 10:30 am -4 pm

Activities free with General Admission

A day of activities that include African American, spoken word artist and poet Naru Kwina who will perform a 30-minute theater production, "Hip Science: The Human Body 101 LIVE," combining rap music with scientific information about the human body in our MegaDome Theater.

In the planetarium, **free** showings of *Follow the Drinking Gourd* throughout the day.

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 5

WEEKEND HANDS-ON 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. (weather permitting)

Discovery Lab

The Discovery Lab is a place especially for the younger crowd, ages 7 and under
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!

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 Black Holes work, race a solar car, and handle red-wiggler worms. Activities vary per weekend.

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 6

CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

More Than Meets the Eye – Adult Basic Astronomy Class

March: 1, 8, 15, and 22, 2006

6:30 - 8:30 PM

Tickets: \$95 non-members / \$85 members

Reservations: 510-336-7398, hwohlwend@chabotspace.org

LIMITED SPACE, so make your reservations as soon as possible

Explore early astronomical observations and beliefs of ancient cultures around the world, get oriented to directions and the motions of objects in the sky, and learn to recognize a few constellations along the way. You will probe the solar system to learn of new discoveries about the old planets you've known since childhood. Trek through the stars and beyond, going where only imagination and computers can take us. Learn how telescopes work, and peer deep into the rich tapestry of the sky to discover that in our universe there is far, far more than meets the eye.

This class will make extensive use of Chabot's state-of-the-art planetarium to aid in visualization of the concepts presented. Weather permitting; we will also make use of our unique set of large telescopes to aid in the visualization of actual astronomical objects! Relevant hands-on activities will also be enjoyed.

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 7

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

New Show:

Legends of the Night Sky: Orion — November 24, 2006 - February 25, 2007. 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:

Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity — Watch the birth of a Black Hole, zip through a wormhole, journey past the event horizon and experience the formation of the Milky Way! Mathematical equations, cutting edge science and Einstein's theories fill in holes along the way, providing the most complete picture yet of this mysterious phenomenon. Can you feel the pull? Narrated by Liam Neeson. *(Running Time 23 minutes)*

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 8

ASK JEEVES PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Evening Shows:

Immersive Space: Journey Through the Cosmos— Fridays, 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)

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.)

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, 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.*

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 — p. 9

TIEN MEGADOME THEATER

Holiday Shows:

Mysteries of Egypt — (November 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 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)

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

CHABOT SPACE & SCIENCE CENTER

Calendar, December 2006 -March 2007 – p. 10

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 4th, Thanksgiving & Christmas; Open New Year's Day and other major holidays)
Telescope Viewing (weather permitting): 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:** Open Saturday & Sunday, 12-5pm. Café offers a variety of sandwiches, hot dogs, salads, beverages, and desserts. Indoor and outdoor seating available.
- 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) 336-7373
- Website:** www.chabotspace.org

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