

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum  
Brings the Universe down to Earth  
*November 2001– January 2002 Event Calendar***

*Special Events*

***Star of Wonder***

**November 23, 2001 – January 6, 2002**

**Zeiss Planetarium Sky Show**

Travel back in time to discover the story behind the fabled "Star of Bethlehem." Was it an exploding star, a brilliant comet, or an unusual grouping of the planets? Explore what scientists theorize the Magi witnessed in the sky of their homeland that prompted them to travel to Bethlehem. "Star of Wonder" carefully examines these theories and comes to a surprising and dramatic conclusion that is based on ancient astronomical records and modern computer calculations of planet positions. The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum's enduring holiday sky show "Star of Wonder" has become a tradition for many families who return each year to experience the remarkable story of the Magi and gaze in wonder at the skies that shone over Bethlehem long ago.

***A weekend with the Zula Patrol***

Celebrate science education for children! Join the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum and members of the Zula Patrol in two fun-filled days of space travel. The Adler will premier two new videos chronicling the adventures of the Zula Patrol. The Zula Patrol, created by Deb Manchester, is a children's series designed to introduce space science education while teaching tolerance to children ages 5 to 12. Along with the new videos the Adler's education staff will be presenting interactive activities to children of all ages!

November 23 & 24, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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***Far Out Fridays***

Enjoy the spectacle of the starry sky as you experience a new event, Far Out Fridays at the Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum in 2001! Scope out the many family activities from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. including telescope viewing, shows in the historic Sky Theater and the world's first StarRider™ Theater, live lectures by Adler astronomers, hands-on activities, special demonstrations, and Doane Observatory tours. Admission Charges for Far Out Fridays are \$13.00 for adults, \$10.00 for children/senior citizens, \$5.00 Adler Members. A Family Star Pack is four for \$40.00 (2 adults/ 2 children or 1 adult/ 3 children). Far Out Fridays are generously sponsored by Food For Thought Management Group.

***University of Illinois Physics Department s Physics Van***

**Saturday, Nov. 17 - 12:45 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:15 pm**

**Sunday, Nov. 18 - 11:15 am, 12:45 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:15 pm**

The Physics Van is a traveling science show for especially for kids & families. By performing and explaining exciting physics demonstrations, the Physics Van shows audiences that science is fun and worthwhile for people who wonder about why the world acts the way it does. They challenge kids' mental picture of what kind of people scientists are. As long as children want to learn and have fun, there's a world of physics waiting to be discovered! The Physics Van is part of an outreach program at the University of Illinois Physics Department. The UIUC Physics Van will be performing in the Universe Theater at the Adler Planetarium on Nov. 17 and 18, 2001. *The performances are free with paid museum admission.*

***Leonids Meteor Shower Watch at Angelic Organic Farm***

**with Michael Faison, Adler Astronomer**

**Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2001**

The Angelic Organics Farm will again host a viewing party in conjunction with The Adler Planetarium for all of those interested in checking out the Leonids Meteor Shower on Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> between 10 p.m. and 3 a.m. People are invited from all over Illinois and Southern Wisconsin to visit the farm and see the Leonids. No reservation required. Please contact Angelic Organics at [learn@angelicorganics.org](mailto:learn@angelicorganics.org) for directions, or call Michael Faison, Adler Astronomer at (312) 542-2209 if you have any questions.

***Partial Solar Eclipse***

**Friday, December 14, 2001**

An annular solar eclipse passing through Central America will produce a 23% partial solar eclipse here in Chicago! Times: 3:08 pm - 3:59 pm CST. The Adler Planetarium Education Department will have telescopes available, weather and temperature permitting, to watch this celestial event. Special solar eclipse safe-viewing glasses are ON SALE NOW in the Adler Planetarium Infinity Store. Get yours while they last!

***Sunfest!***

**Saturday, December 15, 2001**

Take a break from holiday shopping and celebrate the changing of the seasons with the Adler Planetarium! A variety of Sun-related activities will be presented from 11 am - 3 pm. All activities will be free with building admission.

*Adult Education Programs*

***How to Buy a Telescope***

**Jim SeEVERS**

Thinking of buying a telescope for your own use or as a special holiday gift for someone else? Certain types of telescopes are better for viewing comets and deep-sky objects, while others are more useful for viewing planets. We will have several telescopes available for hands-on experience during the workshop. **One session, Thursday, November 29 6:30—8:30 p.m.**

**Fee: \$15 / Member s Fee: \$10**

***The Stars Our Destination: Issues for Interstellar Travel***

**Dr. Geza Gyuk**

**Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum, The University of Chicago**

Humans have looked to the stars since time immemorial. Now, for the first time in our history people are beginning to think seriously about how we may someday journey between the stars. This introductory class will take an in-depth look at some practical issues involved in interstellar travel. Topics include: propulsion systems, life support design, exploration plans, communication and social issues. We will cover ideas that are extrapolations of our present technology and some more speculative proposals. **Two sessions Wednesdays, November 28 and December 5 6:30-8:00 p.m. Fee: \$25 / Member's Fee: \$20**

***Momentum, Light, and the Physics of Pizza Dough***

**Matthew Wenger**

**Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum**

Interested in physics, but do not want to perform mathematical calculations? Use demonstrations and hands-on experiments to learn about how things work on Earth, then find out the same rules apply to how things work in space! Learn how to fingerprint a star. Find out what a galaxy and a twirling pizza crust have in common, and learn how physics is used in modern Astronomy. Come get your hands dirty in this introductory class! **Two Sessions, Thursdays, November 29 and December 6 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$25 / Member's Fee: \$20**

***Weather for Mariners***

**Bob Peterson**

**Great Lakes Compass**

Ever wonder how to use a weather prediction to your race advantage or to stay out of trouble? Is it time to run for cover? This class focuses on helping a mariner interpret weather patterns, systems and storms to shorten a passage or avoid disaster. Discuss weather systems, frontal passages, types of storms, weather/wave interactions, passage planning and routing, storm tactics, race strategy and local weather patterns, obtaining weather information and sources from the Internet and fax and reading satellite/radar images. And there might be a sea story or two.

Targeted toward all mariners, power and sail, who want more expertise and confidence in interpreting weather forecasts, or a new boater who simply wants to learn how the weather develops and moves. Four sessions, **Wednesdays, November 7, 14, 28, December 5 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$50 / Member's Fee: \$45**

***Advanced Astronomy for Kids***

**For Children ages 8-11, Adult Companion Optional**

Do you know the temperature on Mercury? What is a solar flare? If you're "wise to the ways" of the Solar System, use this class to take your knowledge to the next level. We'll investigate some of the most recent research in space science, using demonstrations and hands-on activities to help you learn higher-level concepts. This class is especially for kids who have a significant interest in astronomy. **Course enrollment limit - 15 children, Saturday, December 1 10:00 a.m. - Noon Fee: \$20 / Member s Fee: \$15 (no charge for adults)**

***Making a Telescope Mirror***

**Jim SeEVERS**

Make your own telescope mirror at the Chicago Astronomical Society's optical shop in Lansing, Illinois. All grinding and polishing of telescope mirrors and assembling of the mounting can be accomplished in small classes under individual instruction. Beginning class dates and fees vary with the size of the mirror and number of weeks needed to complete the telescope. Students need to purchase the glass and parts. **Call (312) 322-0551 for more information about Making a Telescope Mirror.**

***Stargazing for Beginners***

**Patrick FrenDREIS**

In the Sky Theater, find constellations and bright stars in the Northern Hemisphere and advance to using a starfinder. Look for meteor showers, aurorae, sunspots, and comets, watch the seasonal parade of constellations and the sun, learn about Moon phases and follow the motions of the planets. Weather permitting, this class will include viewing outdoors, five sessions.

**Thursdays, January 10<sup>th</sup> through February 7<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$60 / Member's Fee: \$50**

***Using Your New or Old Telescope***

Jim SeEVERS

Are you the proud owner of a brand-new telescope? Or, do you have one put away in the attic because you need someone to show you how to use it? Learn how a telescope works, how to set it up, and what performance to expect from it. (Two sessions)

**Thursdays, January 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$25 / Members Fee: \$20**

***What's Your Sign? Astrology, Science, and Pseudoscience***

**Dr. Michael Faison**

**Northwestern University**

**Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum**

Astrology plays an important role in the history of astronomy - some important advances in cosmology were made by astronomers such as Ptolemy, who needed more accurate planetary positions for casting horoscopes. But what purpose does astrology serve in modern society? Discuss the historical connection of astronomy and astrology, why astrology is not a science (and why it doesn't work), and what dangers pseudoscientific thinking may pose to our society. A few recommended readings for the class will be posted at <http://parvati.astro.northwestern.edu/astrology> for those interested in starting early.

**Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 7:00-9:00 p.m. Fee: \$15 / Member's Fee: \$10**

***Celestial Navigation***

**Bob Peterson**

**Great Lakes Compass**

Wish to improve your navigation skills and gain more confidence on the water? Learn celestial navigation as a means of determining latitude and longitude. Identify the basic navigation stars and use a sextant for celestial sights. Find out about celestial coordinates, time measurements, the navigation triangle and use of the Nautical Almanac. Students are expected to be comfortable with coastwise navigation skills, although basics will be reviewed, eight sessions.

Tools needed for this class:

- 2000 Nautical Almanac
- Basic navigation tools (parallel rules, divider, etc.)
- A trigonometric function calculator
- A quartz watch

**Wednesdays, January 9<sup>th</sup> through February 27, 6:00-8:30 p.m. Fee: \$125 / Member's Fee: \$115**

*Temporary Exhibits:*

***Tracing the Constellations through History***

**Special Temporary Exhibit**

**October 13, 2001 through January 13, 2002**

Tracing Constellations through History opens on October 13, 2001 to coincide with the

meeting of the International Map Collectors' Society in Chicago. Throughout history maps of the stars have been created to portray the geography of the heavens and for use in practical applications. The exhibit, which will run through January 13, 2002, is drawn from the Adler's nearly complete collection of major celestial charts published in the western world from the late 1400s through the 1900s.

*Ongoing Sky Show Presentations:*

***Spirits from the sky: Thunder on the Land***

Zeiss Planetarium Show

Providing a never-before seen journey into the culture of the Skidi Pawnee Native American Nation, this sky show produced in cooperation with the Band of the Tribal Elders, will explore the Skidi Band's cultural philosophy of patterning their lives from the observation they made of the earth and celestial phenomena. **Open run**

***Images of the Infinite: Hubble Space Telescope***

Since its deployment from the space shuttle Discovery on April 25, 1990, the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has provided us with spectacular awe-inspiring images and has enriched our understanding of the Universe. This sky show highlights the history and top science findings of the telescope, as well as taking you on an unforgettable tour through the Solar System, Milky Way Galaxy, and to the limits of the visible Universe! **Open run**

***Solar Storms***

**StarRider™ Theater Show**

The Sun's far-reaching influence on the Earth and its diverse life forms has continued for over four billion years. In this dramatic new StarRider show, you will travel to our nearest star, plunge deep into a sunspot, and then emerge to experience the awesome power of solar flares. You will discover the Sun's surprising impact on several aspects of our daily lives: from the awesome beauty of the Northern Lights to blackouts of electrical power grids and interruptions of satellite-based communications. Don't miss the excitement of *Solar Storms*. **Open run**

***Journey to Infinity***

**StarRider™ Theater Show**

Join us on an interactive trip through the Universe, which begins on an alien world 5 billion years ago. You'll witness the formation of our solar system from gas and dust enriched by star explosions and fly out from Earth past the Sun and the planets, through the stars and the Milky Way Galaxy into the distant realms of the Universe. Along the way you will navigate through the oceans of Europa, a moon of Jupiter, and in a canyon on the red planet Mars looking for possibilities of life. **Open run**

## **Add Six / Nov.- Jan. Calendar**

Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum hours:

9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas

On the first Friday of each month the Adler offers special programs with extended hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

### **Admission:**

Ultimate Universe Adventure is \$15.00 for adults and \$14.00 for children 4 – 17 and senior citizens over age 65.

This package includes admission and the choice of two sky shows.

Galaxy Passport is \$10.00 for adults and \$9.00 for children 4 – 17 and senior citizens over age 65.

This package includes admission and choice of sky shows. Each additional sky show is \$5.00.

*The Adler Planetarium & Astronomy Museum is the first planetarium in the Western Hemisphere. Its astronomy programs have reached over 35 million people during the past 71 years. Seven state-of-the-art exhibition galleries located in the stunning new Sky Pavilion and the recently renovated landmark 1930s building present modern space exploration along with the history of astronomy. The world's first StarRider™ Theater, the most technologically advanced, audience-interactive planetarium, fuels the imagination of visitors during virtual flights through the cosmos. With a staff of over 200, the Adler pursues its mission to present the human quest to better understand the universe. Adler scientists and historians, who hold joint appointments at the University of Chicago and Northwestern University, are working at the forefront of research in astronomy and its fascinating history. The Adler is leading the way into the new "Space Millennium."*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (312) 922-STAR**

**TTY: (312) 322-0995**

**[www.adlerplanetarium.org](http://www.adlerplanetarium.org)**.

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