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PSF NEWS

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Did you miss the launch?

On Nov. 4, we launched our online newsletter to digitally bring you this publication, as well as additional news, articles and announcements.

In case you missed it, please be sure to check your spam/junk folder or if you use Gmail, check the 'Promotions' tab. Once you locate the email, scroll to the bottom and be sure to click on "Add us to your address book" — so it can be delivered to your main inbox in the future.

Season's Greetings from the Planetary Studies Foundation



Wishing you and your family a happy
and healthy holiday...

... and peace on Earth to all.

Things We're Thankful for this Holiday Season

1. Our dedicated membership. For over 30 years, people from around the world have believed in our mission.
2. Educators that come in all forms — parents, grandparents, caregivers, and science enthusiasts who share their passion with children. Sparking an early interest in young minds and fostering scientific literacy is the foundation of our mission.
3. The generosity of members each year when deciding which non-for-profit organizations and charities they'll consider during the giving season. Donations contribute to our operating expenses each year.
4. Our Board members and our staff. Thanks to your time, devotion and passion, critical decisions are made and executed.
5. Dedicated volunteers at the Doug Firebaugh Observatory. We thank you.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2021 certainly has been an interesting and challenging year for your Planetary Studies Foundation! The COVID-19 pandemic has had its effect on so many different aspects of what we would consider our normal lives. Just when we thought things were getting better another “wave” of infections swept over us and we seem to be back to square one. This makes it extremely hard to plan for the future. As I mentioned in the Fall 2021 PSF Newsletter we will continue our efforts to develop an excellent informative educational meteorite display at the Putnam Museum and Science Center in Davenport, Iowa. This exhibit will include many of the most important meteorites from the former Christina A. Hollis Collection. As of this date, the display cabinet that will house this collection is scheduled to be completed by the end of December and the meteorites transferred at that time. If all goes as planned this exciting display will be ready in early January for everyone to enjoy and learn about how important meteorites are to the understanding of the formation of planets.



The next step in PSF's commitment to the Putnam Museum will be a unique exhibit featuring Antarctic science and its role in preparation for future human exploration of the Moon and the long journey to Mars. Antarctica has long been used as an experimental environmental laboratory to simulate the extremely hostile conditions that humans could face on Mars. This second exhibit will feature a comparison of survival techniques used in Antarctica to what will be necessary for human habitation on the Moon and Mars. In addition, this exhibit will highlight PSF's historic 1998, 2000, and 2002 Antarctic Search for Meteorites expeditions. Work on this exhibit will begin in early January 2022 and hopefully be completed by late spring.

I am pleased to report that PSF's meteorite research efforts for 2021 classified over 40 new meteorites despite the many problems the pandemic has created for our research associates. Currently, we have a “backlog” of over 100 stony meteorites in various stages of research. This “backlog” is due in part to a request from a private collector to classify several meteorites from his collection. Little did we know that his several turned out to be almost his entire collection of undescribed Northwest African meteorites. In the past the normal time frame needed to classify a meteorite was about three months. Now with all the COVID restrictions and labor shortages the current time frame is between four to six months. Not to be dismayed, PSF's research team lead by Dr. Tony Irving accepted this challenge and developed an excellent plan to expedite the research process wherever possible. All considered, 2022 will be a most rewarding year for our research team.

So as the year 2021 quickly winds-down PSF has much to be thankful for and much to look forward to in 2022. The sale of our 1876 Banwarth House & Museum had both a “happy” and “sad” effect on our organization. The “happiness” came from the fact that the sale relieved us of the maintenance and financial responsibilities that comes with owning a 153 year old house. The “sadness” comes from the fact we no longer have a permanent facility to call home. We still have the photographic memories left from all the exciting events that were held there over these past thirteen years. The 1876 Banwarth House & Museum will always be remembered as an asset and has served us well in support of our educational goals. On a sadder note I must mention the passing of Dr. Bruce D. Dod, a former PSF Executive Board Member and a dear friend. I first met Bruce back in 1978 when he was teaching at Wayland Baptist College in Plainview, Texas. I was leading a group of students from Harper College on a fieldtrip to Plainview in search of meteorites. In asking the public for help in our search efforts, we were told to go speak with Dr. Dod in the Physics Department at Wayland. This chance meeting developed into a personal and professional relationship that lasted over 40 years. Over the years together we toured the wine regions of southern France and cruised down the Nile in Egypt. In later years our respective families became closely entwined. Aside from his scientific and educational achievements I will always also remember Bruce as a talented artist, Civil War reenactor and a renown stamp collector. We will all miss his friendship and sense of humor.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members, friends, financial contributors and research associates for their continued dedication and support in all our various activities. From Diane and I and the ever-growing Sipiера family we wish you all a Happy Holiday season and a very Happy and HEALTHY New Year.

Paul P. Sipiера

DONORS SPOTLIGHT

General Operations Fund

\$200

Workers Courage & Commitment
Debbie Pausz

Meteorite Research

\$10,000

Anonymous Donor

MEMBERS CORNER

NEW MEMBERS

Family

Jeremy Haney
Julie & Steve Helman

RENEWING MEMBERS

Individual Membership

Jerome Clair
Matt T. Harmson
Karen Sabatini

IN MEMORY OF BRUCE DOD



Bruce and family at Griffith Observatory (left) and in front of the Agpalilik fragment of the Cape York Meteorite in Copenhagen, Denmark, during the 55th Annual Meeting of the Meteorological Society in 1992.

Most recently we were informed that one of our PSF family members, Bruce Dod, had passed away from Leukemia. Many of you may have known Bruce as one of our past Board members or the cheery guy at our fundraising dinners. Bruce always had a funny story or would draw caricatures of people on napkins when they were not looking. When the drawing was completed he would give the recipient his drawing. People just loved his gift.

Bruce was born on October 23, 1941. Bruce taught physics, astronomy and geology at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. Some of his hobbies were stamp collecting and he had a world renowned collection. Bruce had a wide range of interests such as; meteorite collecting, Civil War reenacting, and volunteering his time at various museums. He and his wife, Geri, traveled the world together. They called St. Mary's, Georgia their home. Bruce was fortunate to have had two sons, Daniel and David. He will be missed.

A Special Farewell to the...

1876 Banwarth House & Museum

This historical site served as a gathering place for community members, venue for educational programs and beautiful space to call home for 13 years. Beyond the house itself, the community of Elizabeth, Illinois quickly became an extended family of the PSF with many of its residents becoming PSF members and volunteers. These two pages only show a fraction of the people and programs that came out of this special chapter.





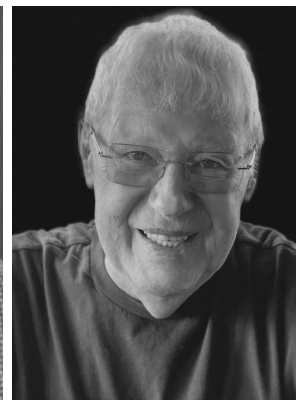
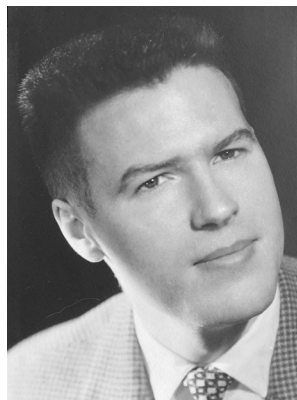
Programs & Workshops hosted by wonderful community members and PSF supporters

- Antarctica Alumni Social Gathering
- Aromatherapy
- Astronaut Remembrance Program
- Basic Rocket Building
- Basket Weaving
- Canning
- Checkers Tournament
- Children's Programs
- Earth Day Celebration
- Edwardian Period Women's Riding Hat
- Ernest Shackleton Birthday
- Ernest Shackleton: A Life of Antarctic Exploration Book Signing
- Foundry in a Box
- Get "Hooked" on Crocheting
- Hauntings
- Historical Holidays: A Victorian Christmas
- Homemade Ice Cream Making
- How to Use Your Telescope
- Living & Coping with Lyme Disease
- Meteorite Showcases
- Milking It: Cow Basics
- Model Trains
- Naprapathy
- Old Fashioned Remedies
- Photography 101: Capturing Still Life
- Preparing Your Garden
- Preserving at its Best
- PSF Members Annual Meetings
- PSF Board Meetings
- PSF Members Holiday Party
- Quilting
- Sock Monkeys
- Solar Observing
- Space Cover Stamp Collecting
- Spring Constellations
- The Artistry of Wooden Pen Making
- The History of Women's Clothing
- This One's Got Sole: The History of Shoes
- Victorian Bonnet Making
- Victorian Hat Making 101
- Victorian Purse Making Workshop
- What's in a Name
- Winter Constellations
- Woolen Soap Scrubby
- Yoga Therapy

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Herbert Windolf

Herb Windolf was born in 1936 in Wiesbaden, Germany and is a German citizen. He married in 1961 and together they had three children. A motorcycle trip through Libya and Egypt in 1956, and a one year work stint in Paris in 1960, greatly affected the rest of his life.

In 1964, Herb joined his German employer, a machine tool company, as a technician for transfer to Canada, and in 1970 relocated to Chicago as sales manager. Some time in 1979/80, Herb met Paul Sipiera when he took geology and astronomy classes with him and they soon became friends. Later in his career, he became managing director of the U.S. affiliate and eventually importer for the company. He partially retired in 1991 at age 55.



Since the early 1990s he has resided in Prescott, AZ, where he currently lives with his cat companion, Rikki Tikki Tavi. After moving to Prescott, he facilitated various scientific courses at a local adult education center. He holds a bachelor's degree in anthropology. He has translated and published a variety of books (from German to English), and has written a biography of his wife's grandparents and parents who were Lutheran missionaries in Sumatra.

Widely traveled, he has written numerous travelogues which, together with his scientific articles, were published in past issues of the PSF News. In addition to his written contributions to the PSF, Herb had an astronomer friend name an asteroid after him, also for Paul and Diane. Herb also provided the Comba-Windolf telescope via the PSF to the Firebaugh observatory. The PSF is grateful for his extraordinary contributions to the organization. More than that, he is a dear friend and faithful support of the PSF mission.

We proudly introduce you to Vice President Emeritus and Life Member, Herb Windolf.

Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF): Herb, you're retired now, but can you share the events that led you to your career with a machine tool company?

Herb Windolf (HW): Married, and in quick succession with three children, I still wanted to see some more of the world. To work for the North American affiliate of a German company I was familiar with, opened up access to Canada and the United States, even Mexico.

PSF: Did you ever consider pursuing a different line of work?

HW: With my technical and sales experience, also being trilingual, I applied for a job as technician with Euratom, also with a German

trading company in Lagos, Nigeria. Fortunately, I did not get either.

PSF: You are an exceptional writer and have authored numerous books and travelogues. Are you currently working on anything?

HW: I continue writing what I call "down-to-earth" poetry, or poetic prose, as I call it. In spring of 2022 my twelfth volume of poetry will be self-published, each with close to 200 poems. At present, I'm up to 58. When done, I will have exceeded 2000.

PSF: Do you have any hobbies?

HW: Because of health issues, my garden activities have become limited. My hobby is the writing of

poetry with which I observe and reflect on life, the world, and on myself.

PSF: Do you have a favorite area of science?

HW: It took me 7 years to acquire a BA in anthropology while I ran the affairs of the US affiliate. I see much of life through anthropology, but never cared to specialize, which keeps me broadly interested in astronomy, cosmology, geology, history, sociology, technology, etc. I consider myself a wannabe scientist.

PSF: You've traveled extensively throughout your lifetime, do you have a favorite place you've visited?

HW: I have been to all continents except Antarctica. Seven trips took me to Africa, a continent I became interested in in my childhood. Three safaris north of the Sahara, four south of it. I was drawn by its history, the animals, the people, and . . . our origin.

PSF: *This year was “the year” for private spaceflight with Virgin Galactic, Blue Origin and Inspiration4 all completing missions. What are your thoughts about these events and what do you hope for in the future of space exploration?*

HW: It is great that private enterprise has become engaged in getting us off our precarious abode. More, more! The next 10 to 20 years will see great advances. Unfortunately, at my age of 85, I will miss most of them.

PSF: *What is one thing you value about your involvement with the PSF?*

HW: I had the good fortune to meet, mostly casually, many astronauts through Paul, but several personally, including having the honor to have

dinner with Jim Lovell and a Spacelab astronaut. I was thoroughly impressed by every one of these venturesome men.

PSF: *What advice would you give to our young readers and science enthusiasts?*

HW: Be interested in life, the world, the universe, and most importantly people. Observe and reflect. Don't specialize, if you can manage. There's a wide world of science out there. Specialization is for computers.

A retired psychology professor-friend with whom I have discussed God and the world, as it is called, through the past five years, two, three times a week, even through the covid pandemic, has modified Socrates' dictum he supposedly uttered at his trial to: "Herbert lives the examined life." With that I can go contentedly. ♦



WINTER CELESTIAL CALENDAR

December 13,14 — Geminids Meteor Shower

This meteor shower is considered by many to be the king of showers. It can produce up to 120 multicolored meteors per hour at its peak. It is produced by debris left behind by an asteroid known as 3200 Phaethon, which was discovered in 1982. The shower runs annually from Dec. 7-17 and will peak this year on the night of Dec. 13.

December 19 — Full Moon

The Moon will be located on the opposite side of the Earth as the Sun and its face will be fully illuminated.

December 21 — December Solstice

The South Pole of the earth will be tilted toward the Sun, which will have reached its southernmost position in the sky. This is the first day of winter (winter solstice) in the Northern Hemisphere and the first day of summer (summer solstice) in the Southern Hemisphere.

December 21, 22 — Ursids Meteor Shower

The Ursids is a minor meteor shower producing about 5-10 meteors per hour. It is produced by dust grains left behind by comet Tuttle, which was first discovered in 1790. Best viewing will be just after midnight from a dark location far away from city lights. Meteors will radiate from the constellation Ursa Minor, but can appear anywhere in the sky.

January 2 — New Moon

The Moon will be located on the same side of the Earth as the Sun will not be visible in the night sky. This is the best time of the month to observe faint objects such as galaxies and star clusters because there is no moonlight to interfere.

January 3, 4 — Quadrantids Meteor Shower

The Quadrantids is an above average shower producing up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. The thin, crescent moon will set early in the evening leaving dark skies for what should be an excellent show.



“THROUGH HIS EYES”

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- Alaska
- Switzerland
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Our mission is to promote the study of planetary science and astronomy with emphasis on meteorites; and to sponsor, encourage, and assist in the physical, astronomical, environmental, and cultural sciences so as to broaden man's knowledge of all phases of the universe.

For more information about our mission and upcoming events, visit:

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- **SPREAD THE WORD:** Encourage your family and friends to choose the PSF, too. Amazon earned over \$386 billion in net sales in 2019 alone — help us receive a tiny piece of that pie! — it's free to you and helps us earn valuable funds.