

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE <i>PAUL P. SIPIERA</i>	2
DONOR'S SPOTLIGHT	3
PHOTOS: BEST OF 2017	4
ELIZABETH RESIDENTS INVOLVED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH	5
MEMBER'S CORNER	5
A MESSAGE FROM DIANE M. SIPIERA	6
YEAR-END DONATION FORM	7

## Season's Greetings from the Planetary Studies Foundation



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

... and peace on Earth to all.

### Top 5 Things We're Thankful for this Holiday Season

1. Our dedicated membership. For over 25 years, people from around the world have believed in our mission.
2. The parents and grandparents that take the time each summer to register their children for the summer educational programs. Sparking an interest in young minds and fostering scientific literacy is so important to our mission.
3. The generosity of members each year when deciding which non-for-profit organizations and charities they'll donate to. Donations contribute to our operating expenses each year.
4. Our Board members and our staff. Thanks to your devotion and passion, critical decisions are made and executed.
5. Dedicated volunteers at the Doug Firebaugh Observatory and our Children's Summer Programs. We thank you.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we approach the holiday season and the end of the year, it's always a good time to reflect back upon the year's events. It has been a very exciting and productive year for your Planetary Studies Foundation. Both our **1876 Banwarth House & Museum** and the **Earth & Space Science Museum** in Elizabeth, IL served the public well with their respective programs and displays. In June we made the first transfer of meteorites to the **Yale Peabody Museum of Natural History** as part of our donation commitment to that institution. This donation not only assures the preservation and protection of our meteorite collections, but it also provides us with the opportunity to work with a world-renowned museum. Then it was the **August 21<sup>st</sup> Great American Total Solar Eclipse**. It gave us an excellent opportunity to educate the public and promote astronomy. Our speakers traveled from the Mississippi River to the shores of Lake Michigan instructing the public on the best and safest ways to view the eclipse. Our efforts were rewarded by the emotional reports we received from members viewing the eclipse from locations all around the United States. In addition to the fantastic eclipse experience, our **Summer Children's Science Program** was very successful and area children are already looking forward to next year's offerings. Over in Freeport, IL Jim Dole and his staff at our **Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory** had a great season with a record number of attendees peering at the heavens through our telescopes. It was a very good year!



Looking to the future I am excited about the fact that your PSF will be celebrating its **30th Anniversary on February 8<sup>th</sup> 2019**. Thirty years is a very long time and many of the not-for-profit organizations that formed at the same time as us are no longer around. We are a success story! During that time there have been many periods of "ups and downs" that affected our existence. From the beginning it was PSF's goal to build a planetarium complex on the campus of Harper College in Palatine, IL. This was the logical choice since all five of PSF's founding members were either Harper faculty or staff. Public interest in the project was very encouraging and the Harper administration was supportive by providing the building site. All PSF had to do was raise between three and twelve million dollars to turn a dream into reality. The PSF did come close to raising the money on two occasions, but for various reasons, it never happened. Instead we were able to redirect our efforts and assist the college in building an astronomical observatory. This facility was opened in 1990 and was later named in memory of the late astronaut and astronomer Karl G. Henize. Since then over 50,000 people have visited the observatory and experienced firsthand the wonders of the universe. In addition to supporting this facility, PSF operated its **Science Learning Center** in Palatine, IL from 1991 to 1993. From there PSF's journey kept moving west stopping briefly in Elgin, Crystal Lake, Woodstock and finally here in Elizabeth, IL. Throughout these years PSF continuously supported educational instructions with visits from scientists, astronauts and StarLab presentations. Since 1992 over 60,000 people have learned from and enjoyed Diane Siphera's StarLab presentations. Another part of PSF's mission is to conduct original scientific research. Each year PSF scientists classify at least 40 new meteorites and present important scientific papers at international meetings. As a result our meteorite collections grew from the initial 1,000 DuPont specimens in 1995 to an additional 1,300 at the end of 2017. And let's not forget Antarctica. Thanks to the initial support from Owen Garriott and his family, PSF was the first non-governmental scientific organization to go to Antarctica to search for meteorites. Eventually, our three expeditions (1998, 2000, and 2002) recovered a total of 54 meteorites. These three expeditions not only recovered meteorites and sampled ice but also utilized Antarctica's unique environment as a teaching tool through direct field communications with children from around the world.

In closing, I would like to thank the entire membership, our financial benefactors, scientists, associates and friends for making all of this possible. 2018 should also be another interesting year and I look forward to what I may have to report to you next December.

**Paul P. Siphera**

# DONOR'S SPOTLIGHT

## **Year-end Fundraising** (as of December 8<sup>th</sup>)

### **General Operations Fund**

The Anders Family Foundation  
(*William and Valerie Anders*)  
Karen & Leo Baran  
Kate Butler  
Cecila Cooper  
Carol Dehnbostal  
Larry Fulfs  
Richard & Ellie Leary  
James Petri  
Marilyn Quas  
Anne Swan-Johnson  
Linda Virag

### **Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory**

Doug Firebaugh  
Janet M. Landato  
Robert Remer  
Harriet Stauffacher  
Karl Stocker  
Monica Van Glahn  
Jane & John Yoder

### **Meteorite Research**

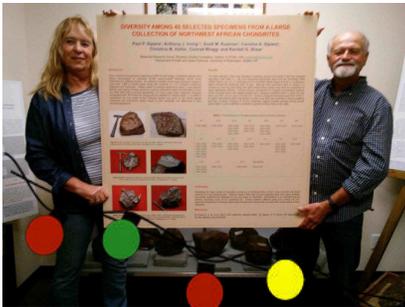
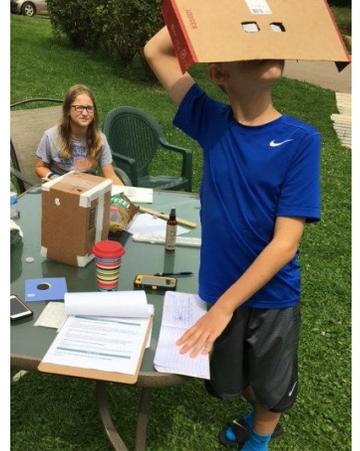
Marlin Environmental Consulting LLC  
(*Robert Renguso*)  
Joan & Larry Reylek  
Paul & Diane Sipiera

### **Summer Children's Science Programs**

Jewish Foundation of Cleveland  
(*on behalf of Audrey & Albert Ratner*)  
Eugenia Krzyzanski

# "BEST OF 2017" IN PHOTOS

2  
0  
1  
7



# ELIZABETH RESIDENTS INVOLVED IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

When you think of the Village of Elizabeth you may think of a quaint little town with rolling hills and lush green farms. Many people are amazed to find out that Elizabeth is also home to the internationally renown Planetary Studies Foundation. This organization is dedicated to promoting science education, the history of the Apollo space program, and the advancement of meteorite studies. It currently operates the Earth & Space Science Museum on Main Street in Elizabeth with its interesting exhibits of astronaut memorabilia, meteorites and local geology. Recently, Elizabeth residents Dr. Christina Hollis and Randy Shaw were co-authors on two scientific papers dealing with the classification of rare meteorites. The first paper dealt with a very rare type of stone meteorite and the analytical results were presented by Dr. Tony Irving in March 2017 at the annual Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Woodlands, Texas. The second paper was also presented by Dr. Irving at the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society held in July 2017 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. It dealt with the classification of forty meteorites selected from the thousands of unclassified stony meteorites in Christina Hollis' collection.

Meteorites are very important to scientists since they contain clues to the formation of our solar system and

possibly life itself. To reveal and understand these clues, scientists use a variety of scientific processes to determine their chemical makeup, mineralogy, age, and time in space. These studies are performed at several different university laboratories, but the need for sample preparation begins at a very basic level. Modern analytical studies require only a very small amount of material. This is obtained from the cutting of a small sample of these rather large and odd shaped meteorites. Most stony meteorites have a certain amount of metal in them and it makes the cutting process very difficult. This is where Randy Shaw used his skill with cutting tools to remove the necessary sample for classification purposes. With sparks and meteorite dust flying, Randy cut over twenty of the largest meteorites.

This is not the only time Planetary Studies Foundation scientists relied on local residents for help. Back in 2012 Woodbine businessman Bill Hayes participated in an experiment to help understand what conditions affected the newly recognized Elizabeth, Illinois iron meteorite. It turned out to be a relatively rare type. Without the help from non-scientists these important scientific discoveries would not be possible.

## MEMBER'S CORNER

### Contributing Membership—Renewing

Harriet Stauffacher

### Sponsoring Membership—Renewing

Bonnie & Joe Garrity

### Family Membership—Renewing

Sue Davison & Howard Haigh  
Jeff, Judith & Philip Glenn  
Martha & Max Purchis  
Kim & Ken Thorsen

### Individual Membership—Renewing

Mary Damasco  
Jim Dole  
Michele Firebaugh  
Larry Flufs  
Aras Jonikas  
Karen Sabatini  
Dave Smith

# A MESSAGE FROM DIANE SIPIERA

December 1, 2017

Dear PSF Members and Friends:

The Planetary Studies Foundation exists because of your continued willingness to financially support our mission to promote science education and to conduct original research in the field of planetary science. Your dedication to our organization is what has kept us going over these last 28 years. Without your contributions our programs would be severely limited and less likely to meet our mission goals. It is very important that we maintain our forward direction and build upon our past successes. As a non-profit organization it is always a challenge to secure monetary resources and we depend heavily upon our member's generosity to implement our programs. To this end, I ask you to make a contribution to the program of your choice on the following page.

## 2017 Program Highlights

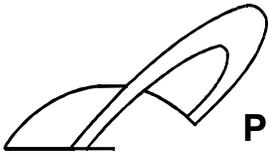
<b>January to December</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Operation of the 1876 Banwarth House &amp; Museum and the Earth &amp; Space Science Museum in Elizabeth, Illinois.</li></ul>
<b>March</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of scientific papers at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Woodlands, Texas.</li></ul>
<b>April to August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Numerous regional instructional programs for the August 21st Great American Total Solar Eclipse.</li></ul>
<b>May to October</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public viewing at the Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory in Freeport, Illinois.</li></ul>
<b>June to August</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children's Summer Science Workshops—4-part series of science and cultural programs</li></ul>
<b>July</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of several science papers at the Annual Meteoritical Society Meeting in Albuquerque, New Mexico.</li></ul>

Thank you very much for your consideration, dedication and support for the PSF. Have a wonderful holiday season!

Sincerely,

*Diane M. Sipiера*

Diane M. Sipiера  
Executive Director



# PLANETARY STUDIES FOUNDATION

## 2017 YEAR-END DONATION FORM

**Promoting Science Education, Meteorite Research and Encouraging Interest in the Physical, Astronomical, Environmental and Cultural Sciences**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check one:

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Summer Children's Program's

\_\_\_\_\_ Operating Expense

\_\_\_\_\_ Meteorite Research

\_\_\_\_\_ Endowment

\_\_\_\_\_ General Fund

Please make checks payable and mail to:

**Planetary Studies Foundation  
10 Winterwood Lane, Unit B  
Galena, IL 61036**



*Thank you*

# MEMBERSHIP FORM

Regular Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 20.00 1 year    or \_\_\_ \$ 35.00 for 2 years  
 Family Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 35.00 1 year    or \_\_\_ \$ 60.00 for 2 years  
 Sponsoring Membership   \_\_\_ \$ 50.00 1 year    or \_\_\_ \$ 90.00 for 2 years  
 Contributing Membership \_\_\_ \$ 100.00 1 year   or \_\_\_ \$180.00 for 2 years  
 Student Membership      \_\_\_ \$ 10.00 1 year  
 Life Membership          \_\_\_ \$ 500.00  
 Please accept this donation \_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_  
 State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to  
*Planetary Studies Foundation*

Please mail the membership form  
 along with a check to:

Planetary Studies Foundation  
 10 Winterwood Lane, Unit B  
 Galena, IL 61036

## SELLING ORIGINS OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

~~~~~



~~~~~  
**CERTIFIED METEORITE INTERNATIONAL**  
**DR. CHRISTINA HOLLIS**  
**P.O. BOX 196**  
**ELIZABETH, IL 61028**  
**815.858.2548**

## KUHN FIRM P.C.

The lawyers at Kuhn Firm P.C. have the experience,  
 knowledge, skills and resources necessary  
 to get the job done right.

Kevin Kuhn  
 847.416.2002  
 kkuhn@kuhnfirm.com

Chicago & Wauconda ♦ [www.kuhnfirm.com](http://www.kuhnfirm.com)

**Robert A. Dittmar**  
 Financial Representative  
 robert.dittmar@countryfinancial.com



310 E. Sycamore St  
 PO Box 244  
 Elizabeth, IL 61028  
 www.countryfinancial.com/robert.dittmar  
 Life | Auto | Home | Annuities | Farm | Disability

tel (815) 858-2236  
 fax (815) 858-2886  
 24 hr. claims (866) 268-6879

**Welcome Inn**  
**102 N. Main Street**  
**Elizabeth, IL 60128**  
**815-858-2254**

