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## THANK YOU FOR VOTING

The Planetary Studies Foundation (PSF) would like to announce that **Mary Becker**, **Jim Dole** and **Doug Hicks** will be a part of your 2019 – 2021 PSF Board of Directors. Congratulations to all!

The PSF Board would also like to thank everyone below who took the time to cast their ballots. Voting is an important responsibility for two reasons.

First, it gives you the opportunity to get involved and voice your opinion about what happens to the organization. The PSF accomplishes a lot with few resources, so having the right people is critical to our mission. Second, the organization's by-laws require that at least 10% of the membership vote in the annual election. That's why it's so important that our 250 members from around the world, take the time to support and guide the PSF into the future. Thanks for a great 2019 and we look forward to the New Year!

Bill Anders  
Leo & Karen Baran  
Alan & Mary Becker  
Bill and Mary Sue Coates  
Cecilia Cooper  
Carol Dehnbostel  
Jim Dole  
Mildred Dole  
Tom Dunmore  
Kathi & Jess Farlow  
Doug Firebaugh  
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Jeff, Judith & Philip Glenn  
James Hagen  
Nancy Heggem  
Douglas Hicks  
Christina Hollis  
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Evelyn Larson  
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Max & Martha Purchis  
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Lawrence & Joan Reylek  
Cathy Rudolph  
Jennifer Schwartz  
Kevin Sevey  
Paul, Diane & Caroline Szipiera  
David Smith  
Harriet Stauffacher  
Anne Swan-Johnson  
Echo Taylor  
Patricia Tierney  
Dan Tindel  
Ellen Tsagaris  
Linda Virag  
Herbert Windolf  
James Wotal

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I look out of the window and see the first heavy snow falling of the 2019-20 winter season, it gives me an opportunity to think about this past year. Once again 2019 proved to be a year of unexpected surprises both good and bad. The year began with an all-out effort to prepare our new museum facility in Elizabeth, IL with appropriate educational displays. Thanks to the efforts of Evelyn Larson and Echo Taylor, our two high school student interns, we were on schedule for a March 1<sup>st</sup> public opening event. Unfortunately, the unusually bad February weather created a series of water leaks that threatened our irreplaceable scientific and space science exhibits. This forced us to postpone and later cancel all public events. The loss of this new facility and its anticipated revenue forced our directors to re-examine our approach to accomplishing our educational goals. Eventually our Board of Directors decided that it was not in our best interest to try and open the museum facility. PSF did meet its educational goals through its scheduled programs at our 1876 Banwarth House & Museum and the Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory in Freeport, IL. In addition to these facilities, there were several scheduled programs at various locations throughout the Tri-State area. This approach proved to be very successful and it created many new educational opportunities.



This new approach began to “pay-off” in early May at the annual meeting of the North Central Region of the Astronomical League in Davenport, IA. I was an invited speaker and several PSF members were there to display and answer questions about many of our most important meteorites. Our presence at this meeting also gained PSF two new members, Ralph Winrich and Grant Harkness. Our meeting with Grant Harkness also introduced us to the Wilton Observatory Project that he and his colleagues are creating to promote science education with a focus on astronomy. It became apparent that we affected him with a new found passion for meteorites and he offered PSF a new partner in our efforts to support science education. Thus began an exciting relationship between the Wilton School District and the Quad Cities area of Illinois and Iowa. The Quad Cities area also offered PSF some interesting potential partners with the Putnam Museum, John Deere Planetarium and local astronomy clubs. In celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, the Putnam Museum in Davenport invited PSF to participate in a July 20<sup>th</sup> public event. It was a very successful evening and it opened the door for future PSF cooperative events with the Putnam Museum.

At September's Annual Members Meeting, your PSF Executive Board passed a 2020 Budget that reflects further cuts in both expenditures and income. This creates an immediate need to re-evaluate our mission goals, consolidate our resources, and develop new fundraising strategies. The Board also gave its approval to explore further educational partnerships in the Quad Cities. The one constant that has been PSF's strength over the past 30 years is our ability to adapt to the ever-changing conditions that surround us. As the 2019 year comes to an end, we are not looking back on a series of “set-backs,” but to the excitement of the many new opportunities that lie ahead. Given all the potential roadblocks that we had to face in 2019, look at what we accomplished! PSF presented numerous off-site lecture programs in celebration of the Apollo 11 Moon Landing, kept the 1876 Banwarth House open on weekends, and Jim Dole and his staff presented programs to a record number of attendees at our Doug Firebaugh Astronomical Observatory.

In addition, our meteorite research team classified 35 new meteorites and Dr. Tony Irving presented scientific papers at two international meetings. Our remaining meteorite collection continues to grow through our research efforts and the donation of type specimens from Dr. Ted Bunch. Eventually, all of these meteorites will join the James M. DuPont Meteorite Collection that PSF donated to Yale in 2017. Next year, the team will continue to classify new meteorites as part of our association and commitment to the Yale Peabody Museum. It is also with great pleasure to announce that the Yale Peabody Museum has honored three members of our research team, Drs. Ted E. Bunch, Tony J. Irving and Paul P. Sijera with the position of Curatorial Affiliate. I am also proud to announce that Evelyn Larson, one of our high school interns, was offered and accepted a scholarship to attend Yale University in pursuit of a degree in Planetary Geology. It is also important to note that each year PSF provides travel grants for two students to attend the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society. PSF also provides a scholarship to a physical science student through an Endowment Fund at William Rainey Harper College in Palatine, IL. This year's recipient was Sean M. James who plans to further his education toward a career in science.

It is so rewarding to see that PSF accomplishes so much with such a limited amount of financial resources, but through a wealth of dedicated members and friends. One in particular will be sorely missed. Executive Board Member, Christina Hollis, died unexpectedly this past November. Tina was very supportive in many different ways, but she made her biggest contribution to our meteorite research program. Hopefully one day soon we can honor her memory with an appropriate dedicated meteorite exhibit in a well-established public museum.

In closing, I would like to thank all our members, financial benefactors, scientists, associates, and friends for their continued dedication and support. In particular, to Connie and Jim Kahl for all the time and resources that they contribute to our 1876 Banwarth House & Museum and to William and Valerie Anders for their financial support. Together, they each kept PSF moving forward in 2019 in a year that could have been very different without their support. We are all looking forward to a very exciting 2020!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**  
**Paul P. Sijera**

# DONORS' SPOTLIGHT

## GENERAL (OPERATIONS) FUND

**\$10,000**

Anonymous

**\$25 — \$499**

Marilyn Quas  
Diane & Paul Sopera  
John & Jane Yoder

## SCIENCE STUDENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

**\$500**

Dr. Michael Zolensky

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# MEMBERS' CORNER

## NEW MEMBER

### Individual Membership

Wilbur Boike

## RENEWING MEMBERS

### Family Membership

Max & Martha Purchis  
John & Jane Yoder

### Individual Membership

Jerome Clair  
Cecilia Cooper  
Mary Damasco  
Jim Dole  
Mildred Dole  
Michele Firebaugh  
Lyle Johnson  
Marsha Prieboy  
Karen Sabatini

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Leo Baran

*This issue's Member Spotlight is extra special because Leo Baran was the first member to join the PSF after its founding members. Leo is the sixth person to believe in the mission and has been a strong supporter for more than 30 years.*

## **PSF News: Can you tell us about your background?**

**Leo Baran (LB):** I am a metallurgical engineer by degree, from the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. I started my career in the non-ferrous (that means not iron or steel) side of the metalcasting business by working for a copper-base metal smelter/supplier to the foundry industry. I have been involved with both the technical as well as the sales and marketing side of the industry. Add to that my years of experience with membership-based metalcasting associations, and it is hard to pin me down to a specific career path. I enjoy science, the real-life, everyday application of the science, and how individuals can advance the science via their volunteer involvement in associations. Today I am working for the National Council of Structural Engineers Associations in downtown Chicago. These engineers make sure the buildings we live, work and go to school in are designed and built both for our enjoyment and safety.

## **PSF News: As one of our longest members, how did you learn about the PSF and what made you join?**

**LB:** Truly? I would be lying if I said I remembered the exact reason why I joined PSF. I think it was a simple connection. I have always been amazed by the universe – space, astronauts, stars, planets, comets –

and everything in between. Even my stamp collecting hobby is “space” focused. My guess is that I saw something special about this group called the Planetary Studies Foundation (then located in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago) and said, “That sounds interesting!” ... and joined.

## **PSF News: Is there anything else that interested you in the PSF?**

**LB:** The interest in building and operating an observatory? That could have been part of it. PSF's connection with meteorites? That must have been another. Remember, a metallurgist loves that fact that metal alloys (usually of iron and nickel) simply fall from the sky!

## **PSF News: You attended many of our past Fundraising Dinners. Which one did you enjoy the most?**

**LB:** That is difficult question. For me, the fact that I met astronauts – live and in person – and in a relatively intimate setting, was just fantastic. Going from memory, Alan Bean was one of the special guests. I remember a “meet and greet” that was scheduled before the dinner to which I brought my son Michael. As a young boy, he was able to meet an individual that walked on the moon and get his autograph (which he still has today). What a wonderful opportunity to talk one-on-one with this special modern-day pioneer and hero.



## **PSF News: You gave a few presentations at the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum on how foundry's work, what made you so interested in them?**

**LB:** Who knows what really motivates you in life, but I do believe that my father, being a pig iron salesperson for Republic Steel Corporation gave me my first exposure to metals at an early age. And think about it... the foundry industry is a very creative industry. They basically take scrap materials – that would otherwise end up in a land fill – correctly “re-alloy” them (through a metal processor or via their own manufacturing techniques) melt and pour liquid metal into a mold, making a final shape. Castings are everywhere – from the bronze statue that sits in a town square, to automotive engine blocks and aerospace parts to window hardware. Everyone's life is touched by castings – everyday, all day!

**PSF News: Does your wife Karen share in your love for science?**

**LB:** Definitely. She is a nurse and has always had an interest in the “bio” side of science. I have the materials/metals background. For example, together we will attend lectures at Fermilab on topics that are in neither of our specialties – physics – and we find it interesting while having a great time doing so.

**PSF News: Where is the most memorable place(s) you have traveled to?**

**LB:** Most of my travels have been in North America. On March 25, 2015, I officially made it to all 50 states! Sure, there are always places where the beauty is outstanding or the view is amazing, but I don’t think we realize how “memorable” any trip can be by simply by talking to and mingling with the “locals” when traveling through an area. Alaska was well worth the trip, but so were aspects of all the other 49 states (and 5 Canadian provinces and 7 Mexican states). And being of Lithuanian decent, I hope my travels will take me to that Baltic country someday.

**PSF News: Do you have advice for young scientists and students?**

**LB:** Pursue it! Sure, there will be days that will challenge your own educational stamina. Don’t give up. Science is ever evolving, and to solve some of the challenges of our time, we need minds that will not take “no” for an answer and will never be afraid to ask “why!”

Also, cross the boundaries of various disciplines. Read science



Leo at the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum doing the "foundry in a box" demonstration to a full audience.

articles in areas that you might not like or fully understand. True “ah-ha” moments have been known to come from those times when curiosity simply causes someone to ask an additional follow up question and dig a little deeper! ♦

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# OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES

## CHRISTINA HOLLIS

PSF executive board member, Christina Hollis, passed away suddenly on November 6<sup>th</sup>.

Christina "Tina" was born on July 19, 1946 in Alberta Lea, MN. She grew up on a 160-acre farm near



Wells, MN. She met late husband, Michael "Wulf" S. Clifton and enjoyed 22 of her best years with Wulf before he died in August 2015.

She received her BS in Agricultural Engineering in 1968 and her MS in Agricultural Engineering with a minor in Mathematics in 1970 from University of Minnesota. She then received her PhD in Agricultural Engineering with a minor in Theoretical and Applied Mechanics in 1973 from the University of Illinois. She worked for John Deere Dubuque Works from 1973 until 2001 at the Technical Center (Moline 1973-1978), Waterloo Product Engineering Center and the Tractor Works (Waterloo 1978-1990), the Rotary Engine Division (Lodi, New Jersey 1990-1993), Davenport Works (1994) and finally Dubuque Works until 2001. She then started her own consulting firm, Omega Consulting and worked in Dubuque until 2007 when she retired.

Tina and her husband Wulf bought the James Allan Opera House in Scales Mound, IL in 2008, where they conducted many auctions and rented the Opera House for parties and weddings. They loved traveling the world together. Tina has traveled to all 50 states and all 7 continents. Tina is survived by her 3 sons: Mike, Tom, and Nathan; and 3 siblings: Larry, Tony and Carolyn.

PSF first met Tina and Wulf when we were looking to furnish the 1876 Banwarth House & Museum. Later we both shared a rental building for the PSF Earth & Space Science Museum and they had the lower level for Wulf-Mart. She became fascinated by meteorites and ended up purchasing her own collection. Our deepest sympathies go out to her family. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

## CIS KROK

Cecile "Cis" Krok and her sister Eugenia Krzyzanski became PSF members several years ago. They lived most of the time in Chicago, but owned a unique home that was converted from a church to a house in Woodbine, IL.

They attended numerous PSF programs and Annual Members Meetings. Cis always had great suggestions for various programs and was always enthusiastic.



Whenever Cis and Eugenia were in Jo Daviess County, they made sure they would stop in for a visit or asked if there was anything that we needed. Cis died suddenly this past August 11<sup>th</sup>. She was a wife of the late Bernard; mother of Kenneth, Deborah, and the late Michael.

Cis was nurse in the Chicago community for over 50 years; the proud recipient of the Polish Falcon Gold Legion Medal of Honor, as well as District 2 President and financial secretary of Polish Falcon Nest #3; St. Vincent de Paul Society, usher, Bingo and volunteer at St. Barbara Parish.

We will miss her enthusiasm and her moral support.



## WINTER CELESTIAL CALENDAR

### Dec. 12 — Full Moon

*Early Native American tribes called it the Cold Moon because the cold winter air settles in and the nights become long and dark.*

### Dec. 13, 14 — Geminids Meteor Shower

*This shower runs annually from Dec. 7-17, and peaks on the night of the 13<sup>th</sup>. The nearly full moon will compete with the shower, but a good show can still be seen from a dark location after midnight.*

### Dec. 26 — Annular Solar Eclipse

*An annular solar eclipse occurs when the Moon is too far away from the Earth to completely cover the Sun. This results in a ring of light around the darkened Moon. The path of the eclipse will begin in Saudi Arabia and move through southern India, northern Sri Lanka and parts of the Indian Ocean and Indonesia.*

### Jan. 3,4 — Quadrantids Meteor Shower

*This shower can produce up to 40 meteors per hour at its peak. Meteors will radiate from the Bootes constellation, but can appear anywhere in the sky.*

### Jan. 10 — Full Moon

*Early Native American tribes called it the Wolf Moon because this was the time of year when hungry wolf packs howled outside their camps.*

### Feb. 9 — Full Moon

*This moon will be the fourth closest of the thirteen full moons in 2020. Early Native American tribes called it the Snow Moon due to the heavy snowfall of February.*

# 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

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