

Volume 34.1
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PSF NEWS

Planetary Studies Foundation

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Planetary Studies Foundation

Celebrates



YEARS

THANKS TO OUR MEMBERS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In anticipation of the upcoming April 8th Total Solar Eclipse, the Sipiera Family is looking back on our experiences from the 2017 Great American Eclipse. Several things will be different. First, viewing in April from an urban Indiana site rather than viewing in August from rural Nebraska may be a problem. The weather will be the biggest concern along with mobility. In 2017 we were able to drive out of the bad weather until we found a nice sunny location. Now in 2024 we will have to "hunker-down" in the middle of Bloomington, IN surrounded by a potential gathering of 100,000's of people. Our viewing site is a private residence. So, all we can hope for is good weather with a clear sky overhead. Another difference from the 2017 event is the makeup of our family expedition team. In 2017 it was Andrea and Ryan Nolan, Paula, Caroline, Diane, and Paul Sipiera. It was immediately after we all experienced the emotional effects of totality that we pledged to "do it again" in 2024. Back then those next seven years seemed so far away, but here we are anxiously awaiting the next BIG DAY. This year's family team includes Andrea, Ryan, James (5) and Roc (3) Nolan; Paula, Cole, Olivia (4) and Miles (2) Feiner. Our girls have been busy! Completing the team will be Diane, Paul, Caroline, and Robert Picchiotti. If all goes well, they can plan the next Family Solar Eclipse Reunion for August 2045.



On February 8th your Planetary Studies Foundation celebrated its 35th Anniversary. Looking back on all those years I am truly amazed at all the accomplishments our organization has achieved through the hard work and dedication of its loyal members. There were so many people who contributed either their financial support or individual expertise to help make the Planetary Studies Foundation what it is today. I only wish I had the opportunity to personally thank all those people who played such a key role in our success. In that sense I would like to single out two individuals Herb Windolf and Richard "Dick" Friedman who we lost this past year. I first met Herbert Windolf when he was a Harper College geology student of mine. I was initially intrigued by Herb's German accent and the curiosity he expressed in the Natural Sciences. We later became good friends and over the next 40 years shared in many personal and academic adventures. The Planetary Studies Foundation could always count on Herb's continued support and guidance in all our projects. Personally, Herb was 12 years older than me and a brother Rat from the Chinese Zodiac. I often called upon him for his wisdom and life experiences to help me build character and get through many of life's disappointments. Herb, I will miss you!

Meeting Richard "Dick" Friedman was a different experience. Dick was a prominent Chicago lawyer involved deeply in domestic and international politics, but also an avid amateur astronomer. That's where our paths first crossed, but I actually had an earlier memory of him. Back in 1971 it was a Mayoral election year for the City of Chicago. Dick was the Republican candidate running against the legendary Democratic Mayor Richard J. Daley. This was an important election for me since it would be my first opportunity to vote in any election. I was a proud southwest-side Republican and cast my first vote for Richard Friedman. In those days Major Richard J. Daley ruled the city and Dick Friedman put up a good fight but lost. Years later after we had become good friends, I mentioned to Dick that I was proud to have cast my very first vote for him. Over the following years Dick and his wife, Jorie, enjoyed many happy times with my wife Diane and our daughters. I will always remember Dick as the one politician I could trust and only wish he could be our President today!

As we now look to the future, I would like to single out two of our current members, Dr. David Kahn, and his wife Dr. Jennifer Kahn. They are both accomplished educators who will be moving into new roles within the Planetary Studies Foundation's infrastructure. David Kahn has agreed to complete the remainder of Herb Windolf's term on the Executive Board. He also plans on running for a 3-year term in the September election. We are all excited to welcome Jennifer Kahn who brings with her a wealth of new ideas and skills to enhance our educational programs. Yes, the future does look bright for your Planetary Studies Foundation.

Paul P. Sipiera

DONORS SPOTLIGHT

General/Operations Fund

Anonymous***
 Mary & Alan Becker***
 Mary Sue Coates**
 Bonnie Garrity*
 Linda Virag**

Meteorite Research

Joan & Larry Reylek*
 Paul & Diane Sipiera***
 Jason Whitcomb***

- * Recognizes a donation of \$100 to \$499
- ** Recognizes a donation of \$500 to \$999
- *** Recognizes a donation of \$1,000 & up

MEMBERS CORNER

Renewing Members

Contributing Membership

Kathleen R. Butler

Family Membership

Sean & Jill McHugh
 Brett & Mary Beth Stark

Individual Membership

Bonnie Garrity
 Steve Hoyer
 Marsha Prieboy

Family Membership

Sean & Jill McHugh
 Brett & Mary Beth Stark

New Members

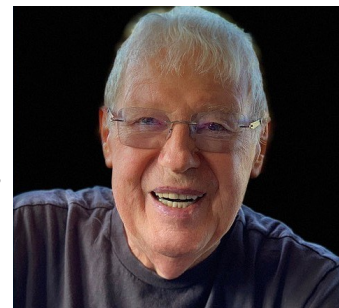
Family Membership

Damon Heim

Individual Membership

Dr. Alan Stone

PSF Board Member and VP Emeritus, Herbert Windolf, passed away at the end of 2023 at the age of 87.



Herb, or "Uncle Herb" as Paul and Diane Sipiera's children often referred to him was a staple of the PSF and the Sipiera family. Herb was a dear friend to Paul and a fierce advocate of the PSF and our mission. He donated ideas, he donated financially, and he was a regular contributor to our newsletter with his memoirs of his exotic travels over the years. There was no doubt how much he believed in our organization.

Herb was born in 1936 in Wiesbaden, Germany. He grew up in Germany amidst WWII; at the age of 19 he traveled by motorcycle through NE Africa - the beginning adventure of many later world travels. He spent a year working in Paris, France. At 27 and in the employ of a German machine tool company, Herbert emigrated with his wife and three young children to Canada, then to the USA in 1970.

He retired from this same company, as managing director. He earned a bachelor's degree in anthropology. In 1991 Herbert moved with his wife to Prescott, Arizona. Herbert translated several German books including some of Karl May's Westerns, which he grew up reading.

He facilitated scientific courses in the adult education center. He wrote travelogues, scientific articles, an autobiography, and the biography of his in-laws' time as missionaries in Sumatra. He wrote 13 volumes of prose/poetry depicting his many views on the challenges of his life, marriage and health.

He will be missed and remembered so fondly!

We Can Do It!

A Personal Plea From Editor-in-Chief, Andrea Nolan

Just like 'Rosie the Riveter' represented the call for women to join efforts in support of WWII, I am making a personal plea to our membership to help Illinois' state insect, the monarch butterfly.

Over the past two decades, the population of our orange and black winged friends has declined by 90% and scientists are warning that they're now in danger of a migratory collapse. Across North America and Mexico, monarchs are threatened by pesticides, climate change, suburban sprawl and more.

Monarchs' decline is yet another sign of widespread environmental change. The population decline of butterflies and bees threatens the wellbeing of people, too. Food security is dependent on the ecological benefits that pollinators provide and Monarchs and their epic migration are on the brink of disappearing all together.

As Midwesterners, we actually have a lot of control in being able to help. The good news is that even novice gardeners can help reverse the decline to help this iconic — and critically important — butterfly. One of the best ways to help is by planting milkweed (genus *Asclepias*), the only plant that monarchs lay eggs on and that the caterpillars will eat. Monarch larvae thrive on a diet of milkweed leaves, which contain a milky sap that protects monarchs from their enemies.

Although common milkweed has a reputation for spreading and taking over gardens, there are other varieties that are not as aggressive — butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) and Sullivan's milkweed (*Asclepias sullivantii*). The best way to know what type of milkweed you should plant is to ensure you're planting a species native to your area. There are many resources online and I encourage you to do a little research!

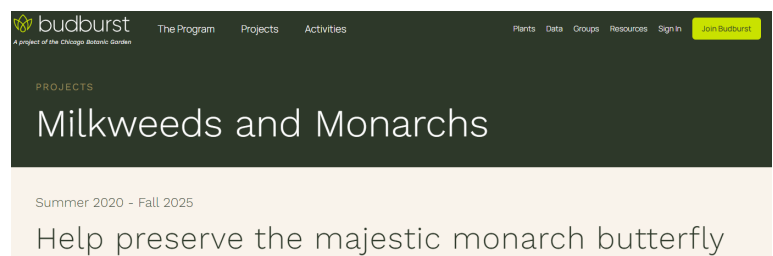
Most native milkweed plants prefer to be planted in the fall, but you can start milkweed from seed now by putting the seeds in a moist paper towel and placing them in the fridge to simulate effects of winter until they soften and sprout. This process is called artificial stratification. If you start your seeds indoors, you will want to start them 4 to 8 weeks before moving them outside and after the last frost.

If you're on social media, follow along on Facebook and join the conversation to save these majestically-named creatures who need our help. 🦋

Other Local Ways to Help

The Chicago Botanic Garden has a community science project you can participate in called Budburst. The project asks locals to observe monarchs and report back information about the butterflies.

Visit their website below:



Doug Firebaugh Observatory

2892 W Stephenson St | Freeport, IL | 815-291-3072



Open House and 2024 Observing Season Kickoff

May 4, 4-11 pm

Tour the observatory and see the telescope equipment that is used, talk with the observatory staff and look at the various displays and activities for the day. At 8pm they'll transition to their first night of public observing.



Public Observing Nights

May–October, 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, 8pm

There will be an astronomy related presentation as the prelude to observing on public nights. Come and share the beauty of the nighttime flies with the telescopes and imaging.

Getting Started in Astronomy

Wednesdays: May 1–June 5, 7-9pm

Observatory staff is offering a six week (one night a week, Wednesday from 7-9pm) introductory class for people interested in learning about astronomy, how to use a telescope, and find your way around the night skies. This class is for adults 16 or older and limited to 12 persons. The cost is \$50 per person and no astronomy knowledge is required / assumed.

To sign up contact *Jim Dole* at jbdole@gmail.com or direct message the *Doug Firebaugh Observatory* on Facebook.



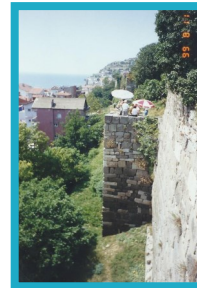
BLAST FROM THE PAST

ECLIPSES FROM OVER THE YEARS



The photo on the far left was the "official viewing area" on the beach. The other photos are where a few other people I hung out. It was on top of the ancient wall around Byzantium—Constantinople—Istanbul. It was someone's backyard but they welcomed us graciously. They provided snacks and drinks and many great memories.

Richard Leary,
PSF Member



1998

Aruba

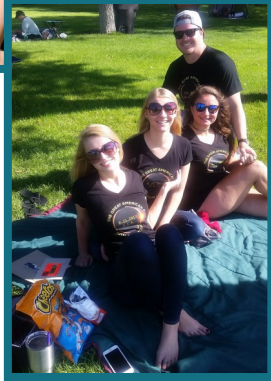
1991

Mexico

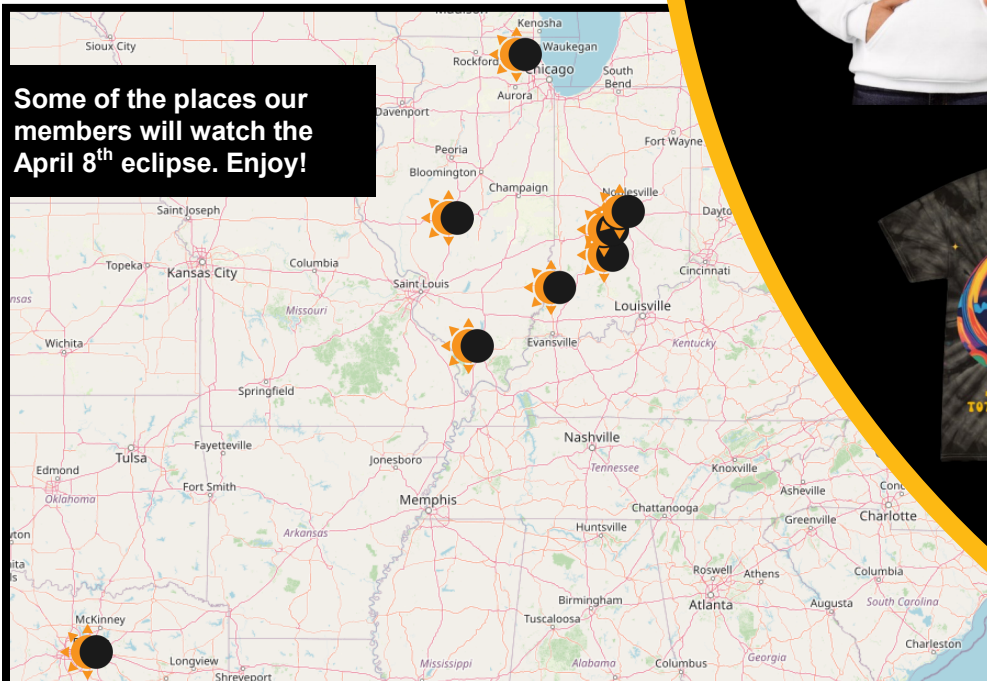


1999

Turkey



2017
Nebraska,
USA



Some of the places our
members will watch the
April 8th eclipse. Enjoy!

April 8, 2024

ECLIPSE GEAR



Visit planets.org to get your eclipse gear by 3/22 for it to arrive BEFORE the eclipse!

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 _____ \$ _____

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Please mail the membership form
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10 Winterwood Lane, Unit B
Galena, IL 61036

Our mission is to promote the study of planetary science and astronomy with an 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, articles and upcoming events, visit:

www.planets.org