

2021 Year in Review

The Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown
Planetarium

January 22nd, 2022

Welcome to Our Year in Review



What happened in
2021?

Annual Meeting: January 22rd, 2021

New Board Members Elected

- Ashley Jacoby
- Laura Karl

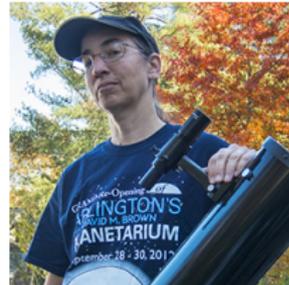
Board Members Re-elected

- Joseph Migliaccio
- Kathi Overton
- Tom Wanat
- Jim Edwards-Hewitt



Annual Meeting: Events

- **Max Parks** opened the meeting with a talk on *Setting NASA's Research Direction: The Politics of Science*
- **Kathi Overton** gave an overview of our 2020 activities and a preview of our 2021 plans.
- Project manager **Robin Hodges** gave an update on construction at the former education center and the planetarium.



Construction Progress

The Planetarium was closed for all of 2021 due to the Education Center renovation.



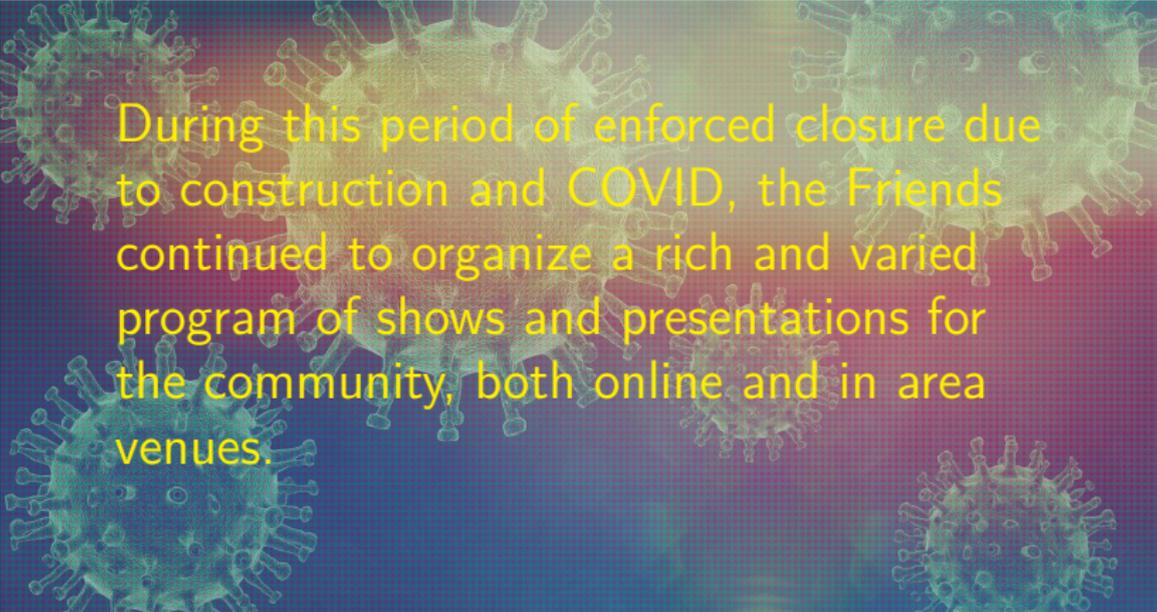
Construction Progress

We are optimistic that the Planetarium will reopen in 2022, although there is still a massive amount of work remaining to be done.

Work continues on the interior of the Planetarium itself, including renovations of the HVAC, mechanical, and plumbing systems.



Our Programs Continued



During this period of enforced closure due to construction and COVID, the Friends continued to organize a rich and varied program of shows and presentations for the community, both online and in area venues.

March: Prof. Einstein

The formerly departed Albert Einstein joined us through a loophole in the spactime continuum. He graciously answered viewers' questions and recounted anecdotes from his life before death for almost an hour, in a live session watched by enraptured multitudes on the front page of our website.



Prof. Einstein channeled by Dean Howarth

April: Volcanoes of the US



“From violent pyroclastic flows in the Cascade Mountains to the nearly constant lava flows at Kilauea in Hawaii, there are various types of volcanoes throughout the United States.”

Charity Southworth gave a live online presentation about volcanoes in the US and the way people respond to them.

May: Tyrannosaurus rex

Growing Up, Tyrant Style: The Shifting Ecology of Tyrannosaurs

Dr. Thomas R. Holtz, Jr., vertebrate paleontologist and principal lecturer at the University of Maryland, spoke about how new discoveries shed light on the changing ecology of tyrant dinosaurs from hatching to adulthood.



June: Era of the Space Start-Ups



Board member Raphael Perrino gave a live virtual presentation about SpaceX, Blue Origin, Virgin Galactic, and the rapidly growing new phenomenon of space entrepreneurship.



September: Ice Cream Social



The Friends provided fun, education about the Solar System, and an opportunity for folks to join or renew their memberships.



October: Chaco Canyon

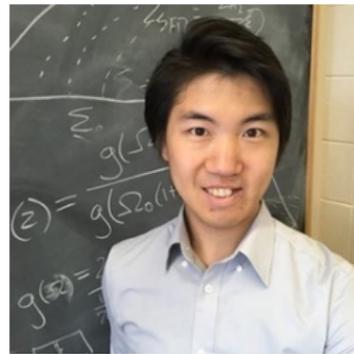


Board member and former President Alice Monet shared her experiences in Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico in a fascinating and informative online presentation about archaeoastronomy and the joy of observing the stars from a dark-sky site.

November: Webb Telescope



Dr. L. Y. Aaron Yung gave an enthusiastic talk called *Seeing Farther into the Universe* about infrared astronomy with the Webb Space Telescope in this joint NASA/Friends program in the Arlington Mill Community Center, parts streamed, some in Spanish. Friends President Jennifer Bartlett spoke about *Infrared 'Eyes' on the Universe*.



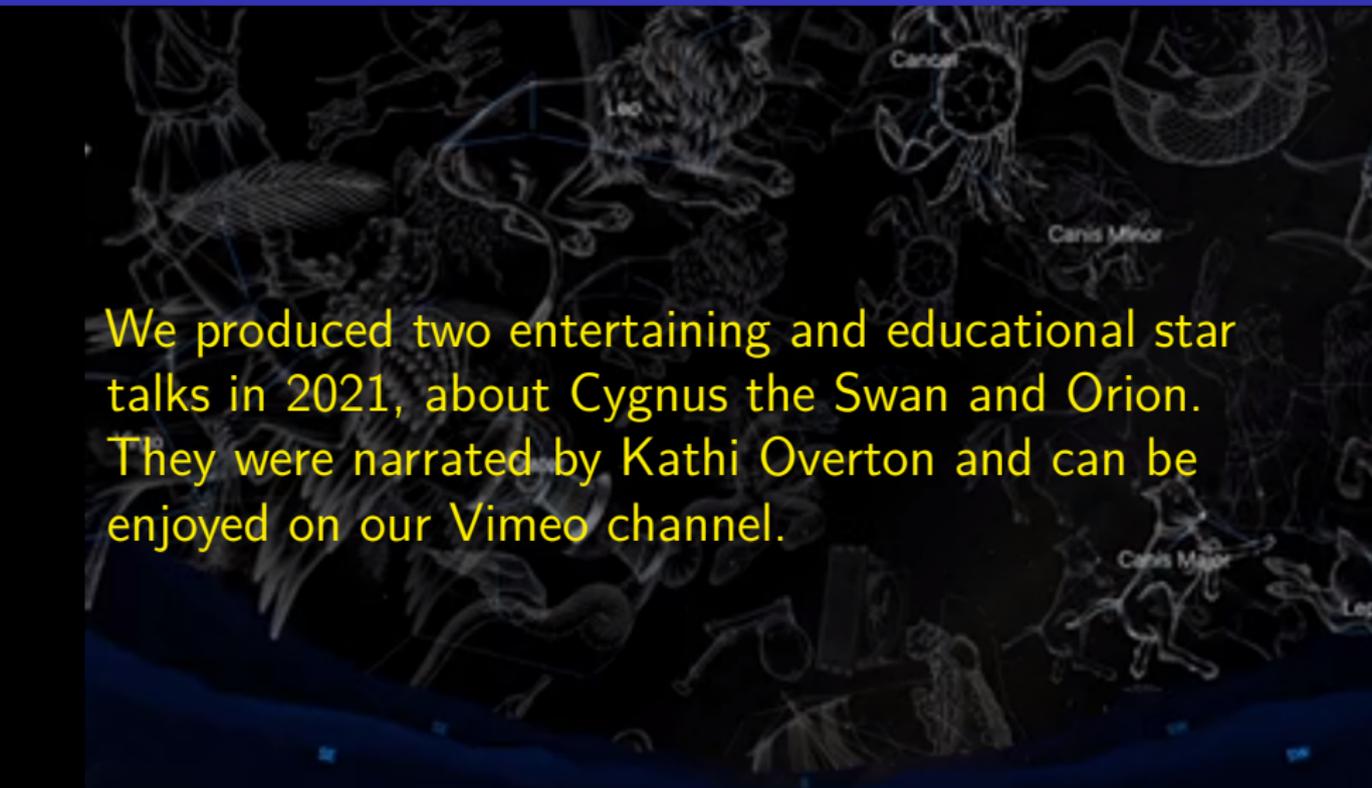
December: Black Holes



Dr Sethanne Howard presented an online talk about how black holes are built, what it is like to visit one, and how they can dance.

Star Talks

We produced two entertaining and educational star talks in 2021, about Cygnus the Swan and Orion. They were narrated by Kathi Overton and can be enjoyed on our Vimeo channel.



APS Letter of Agreement



Approved July 29th

- Signed by President Bartlett August 20th
- New projector: Friends to consult, help raise funds
- Corridor mural: Friends to propose replacement
- Assist in search for new Planetarium Director
- Friends' insurance coverage increased; volunteers to sign waivers

Fundraising for Special Programs

We continued to operate and solicit contributions for:

- Grants for Teachers
- New projector and facility improvement
- David M. Brown Scholarship
- Our membership program

We Cooperated with

Montessori Public School of Arlington - Hoffman Boston Elementary School - Long Branch Elementary School STEM Night - St. Bernadette Catholic School classroom visits - Arlington Neighborhood Village

Combined Federal Campaign



In 2021 the Friends of Arlington's David M. Brown Planetarium was approved for inclusion in this Federal workplace charitable donation program, opening an additional channel for donations from thousands of federal employees and retirees.

Donations through the CFC were solicited on the website and through social media throughout the campaign period.

Online Presence



This year we also formally adopted a social media policy and redoubled our efforts to engage with the community through our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts.

Newsletter



We began emailing a monthly newsletter to our membership in January of 2021, and have sent one out around the middle of each month since then.

The Newsletter contains Planetarium and Friends news, news of the month in astronomy, astrophysics, and related education initiatives, notices about planetariums around the world, relevant community events, and historical articles related to our mission.

Website



- 100% uptime in 2021
- Redesigned
- Redeployed Community Events
- Switched to DDG search engine, removing all vectors for user tracking
- Embedded live streams of our events on front page



Goals for the New Year



- Replace projector, raising necessary funds
- Resume live shows in a newly opened Planetarium
- Replace corridor mural
- Expand service to the local hispanophone community
- Enlarge membership
- Launch a conservative investment program