FALL 2024



The newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society



The BIG story...

"United Under the Sky"

This past summer saw some MAPS members on the global stage, as the International Planetarium Society convened its biennial conference in Jena and Berlin, Germany.

Back here stateside, MAPS as an organization has been keeping busy, too! Our committees are hard at work finding new ways to better serve our members. And the Executive Committee has proposed a change to our Board structure to foster seamless transitions and to ensure the long-term sustainability of MAPS leadership.

Read on to find out about all of the things that are happening in the MAPS region...

IN THIS ISSUE:

STORIES FROM MAPS

MAPS COMMITTEE NEWS AND UPDATES

YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

INCLUSION, DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND ACCESSIBILITY

FUN & GAMES

"Hello, MAPS Members!"

President's Message by Noreen Grice

It must be autumn, because Pegasus is ascending in the eastern sky! Plus, there are lots of pumpkins everywhere... but that's a different story!

By the time this issue of The Constellation is released, you will have the opportunity to vote on a very important change to the MAPS Constitution and By-Laws. This change has to do with the position of Treasurer.

As you know, every two years, we hold elections for the positions of President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary. The President-Elect learns under the guidance of the current President, and slowly takes on responsibilities so that two years later, that person transitions to President, and the current President transitions to Past-Present. This means that there are three MAPS presidents in a line of learning and succession at all times. If there is any kind of emergency, the Past-President or President-Elect can temporarily step in to help.

The Treasurer position, however, has been a role with no mentorship or backup. This can be risky if the Treasurer is not available or cannot complete their 2-year term. So, the MAPS Officers and Board members have decided to create a proposed line of succession that follows that of the President. The idea is that the upcoming election will be for the position of Treasurer-Elect, who will learn under the guidance of our current Treasurer, Mike Francis, for two years, before transitioning to the role of Treasurer. This will allow that person to take on responsibilities gradually and be "ready to go" when they transition to Treasurer. At that point, Mike Francis will transition to Past-Treasurer, and be available as a mentor and emergency backup while the new Treasurer begins training the next Treasurer-Elect. This line of succession will change the Treasurer position from a 2-year term to a 6-year term, with three transitions of role, just like the president.

This is a very important change to the Treasurer position. Voting for this change will only be available for a short time, so PLEASE cast your ballot!

And speaking of elections, are you interested in running for President-Elect, Treasurer (-Elect) or Secretary? If so, please contact a member of the MAPS Elections Committee. You can nominate a MAPS member (please check to see if that person is interested!) or nominate yourself. MAPS is a vibrant planetarium organization with a lot of activities happening! We need everyone's help in growing our organization and welcoming new members. You are encouraged to become more involved as an officer (for this upcoming election) or join one of our many committees!

I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming ALL MAPS Member Zoom Meetings!

Sincerely,

Noreen



PAGE 3

Save the Date!

Please join us for an All-MAPS member meeting!



All MAPS member Zoom Meeting! Thursday September 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm

A time to reconnect with updates and and conversation!

The Zoom link will be provided before the meeting!



Please mark your calendar for Sept. 19, 2024 at 7:30 pm for our next All MAPS Zoom Meeting!

We will have updates, user group meetings and great conversation!

The Zoom link will be provided before the meeting. See you there!

Connect with MAPS!







CONSTELLATION

PAGE 4

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The Constellation is the newsletter of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society (MAPS). It is published four times a year near the equinoxes and solstices. To submit an article, email <u>publications@mapsplanetarium.org</u>.

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Star Chart Activity

by Lee Ann Hennig

When introducing beginners to star charts, I like to start out with simple static examples. Once they've mastered the basics of that chart, they can graduate to the more complicated versions. I have included 3 basic charts for an early evening sky for each of the seasons during the school year: Autumn, Winter, and Spring. I prefer to concentrate on a South oriented view and leave the North for a separate chart.

Start your lesson with a session on:



Introduce them to the Night Sky:

- A few bright stars, constellations, stellar properties, some myths- you know what you do best!
- Underscore where they are looking to find the objects you are talking about by emphasizing the terms above.

Star Chart Activity:

• Introduce the Star Chart and explain that it represents the night sky at whatever time you have your planetarium set for when they are observing. Remember to remind them (as you did in the introduction, that the brightness of a star is not always an indication of size) that the size of the dot indicating the star is just meant to show its brightness relative to the other stars.

- South is indicated on their charts: have them indicate East and West on the charts. Discuss why North is not indicated.
- Choose a major constellation on the chart and help the students recognize it in the planetarium sky. See how many they can find on their own.
- Write down the names of the constellations on the charts.
- Draw in extra constellations, asterisms, stars, etc.
- If there are any planets visible have the students mark those on their charts.

Follow-up questions for discussion possibilities:

- 1) What would the sky look like if you went out several hours later?
- 2) Why would the sky change from hour to hour?
- 3) Why do we see more or fewer stars than what the chart shows?
- 4) How do you know which direction is north, east, south, and west?

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Star Chart Activity

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Remember...

- Feel free to use the charts as is, or to modify them to suit your needs. Some students like to color or draw figures over the constellations or to personalize the foreground!
- A night sky program should be fun and motivational for beginners. Sometimes it's their first introduction to learning

astronomy, but it incorporates so many basics of learning in general.

• Most importantly, our sessions are made richer by the questions and curious nature of the students. Often, the presentation is driven by their engagement in the moment! Use that to your advantage.



The "Autumn Sky Chart," which can be downloaded (along with Winter and Spring) using the links below.

Artwork for the star charts was made by Jane A. Burke.



Say "YES" to History

by Stephen Dubois

'History of astronomy' or 'portraits of astronomers' as program topics. Have you ever considered this for public programs? I have done several iterations of the always-popular "Discovery of Pluto" over the years, so I knew there is a draw for some historical topics. But putting the focus on specific astronomers was something I had never done in a live format, and I had an opportunity to do so earlier this year. The results were surprising and exceeded my expectations.

I had welcomed the group, mostly 60 and up, as the clientele at the Williamsville Space Lab Planetarium is organized through the Community Education Dept. and tends to draw lots of retirees and elderly (with a few parents and children sprinkled into the mix.) Before beginning, the group was told to provide feedback afterward if "more history shows" would be something they would like to see in the future. The title of this live program (with multi-media visuals) was Baring the Heavens: The Herschel Family, and it told the story of William, Caroline and John: outlining their contributions and legacies with regards to astronomy, telescope design and observations.

There certainly was a lot to unpack here, and no shortage of information was available. I'm sure we all know about William discovering Uranus, infrared radiation and developing state of the art telescopes as well as the first large-scale scopes. And Caroline was instrumental in the creation of the New General Catalogue, as well as paving the way for women in astronomy. John not only was an accomplished astronomer, but also invented stop bath for photography, and even coined the terms positive and negative for film. As the program progressed through its chronological course, I noticed the smiles on the faces of the crowd, and how excited they were to learn of each important milestone of the Herschels' respective careers.



Throughout the presentation, I was playing music in the background. Lively symphonic music of the period where William was working. After a final recap of each family member, I made the big reveal that all the while they were learning about this family it was William's compositions that comprised the soundtrack. William Herschel was an accomplished composer (I personally love

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Say "YES" to History

his gift of melody - especially in his 8th Symphony) and composition was his career path prior to astronomy. There was a little gasp amongst the crowd when this was revealed...as if to cement in their minds William's status as a Post-Renaissance Renaissance Man.

As they were leaving, group after group said "yes to history!" and "more like this!" and "we really found this fascinating!" So, this fall, the planetarium is offering "Vision and Genius: Brahe and Kepler." And I, for one, am looking forward to sharing more history with our guests. If you're on the fence about such topics, don't be. Some tips would be:

- Make it as visual as possible.
- Find lots of period paintings and photos of locations, inventions, etc.

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- Try to utilize your facility's own effects and fulldome features (if available).
- Also, tie in the importance of past discoveries, why they are important and how they pertain to science today.

By doing those things, a live presentation about an astronomer(s) can be elevated from the typical expectations of historical documentary.

Studying the history of astronomy is more than just an academic exercise: it's a journey through humanity's quest to understand our place in the cosmos. By exploring the breakthroughs and struggles of past astronomers, we gain insight into the evolution of scientific thought, and the interconnectedness of culture, technology, and curiosity.



<u>How Fisher Went to the Skyland: The Origin of the Big Dipper</u>

shared here by Francine Jackson

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This is a story from the Anishinabe indigenous people of the Great Lakes Region, shared with us by Francine Jackson.

Fisher was a great hunter. He was not big, but he was known for his determination, and was regarded as one with great power. Fisher's son wanted to be a great hunter also. One day the son went out to try to catch something. It was not easy, for the snow was very deep, and it was very cold everywhere. In those days it was always winter on the Earth, and there was no such thing as warm weather. The son hunted a long time with no luck. Finally, though, he saw a squirrel. As quietly as he could, he sneaked up and then pounced, catching the squirrel between his paws. Before he could kill it, though, the squirrel spoke to him...



"Grandson," said the squirrel. "Don't kill me. I can give you some good advice."

"Speak then," said the young fisher.

"I see that you are shivering from the cold. If you do what I tell you, we may all enjoy warm weather. Then it will be easy for all of us to find food and not starve as we are doing now."

"Tell me what to do, Grandfather," the young fisher said, letting the squirrel go.

The squirrel climbed quickly up onto a high branch and then spoke again. "Go home and say nothing. Just sit down in your lodge and begin to weep. Your mother will ask you what is wrong, but you must not answer her. If she tries to comfort you or give you food, you must refuse it. When your father comes home, he will ask you why you are weeping. Then you can speak. Tell him the winds are too cold and the snow is too deep. Tell him he must bring warm weather to the Earth."

So the young fisher went home. He sat in the corner of the lodge and cried. His mother asked what was wrong, but he did not answer. She offered him food, but he pushed it away. When his father returned and saw his only son weeping, he went to his side.

"What is wrong, son?" Fisher said.

Then the young fisher said what the squirrel had told him to say.

How Fisher Went to the Skyland: The Origin of the Big Dipper

continued from previous page

"I am weeping because the wind is too cold and the snow is too deep. We are all starving because of the winter. I want you to use your powers to bring the warm weather."

"The thing you are asking of me is hard to do," said Fisher, "but you are right. I will do all I can to grant your wish."

Then Fisher had a great feast. He invited all of his friends and told them what he planned to do.

"I am going to go to the place where the skyland is closest to the Earth," he said. "There in the skyland the people have all the warm weather. I intend to go there to bring some of that warm weather back. Then the snow will go away and we will have plenty to eat."

All of Fisher's friends were pleased and offered to go with him. So when Fisher set out, he took the strongest of his friends along. Those friends were Otter, Lynx and Wolverine.

The four of them traveled for a long time through the snow. They went toward the mountains, higher and higher each day. Fisher had with him a pack filled with dried venison, and they slept at night buried under the snow. At last, after many, many days, they came to the highest mountain and climbed to its top. Then Fisher took a pipe and tobacco out of his pouch. "We must offer our smoke to the Four Directions," Fisher said. The four of them smoked and sent their prayers to Gitchee Manitou, asking for success.

The sky was very close above them, but they had to find some way to break through into the land above. "We must jump up," said Fisher. "Who will go first?"

"I will try," said Otter. He leaped up and struck the sky but did not break through. Instead he fell back and slid on his belly all the way to the bottom of the mountain. To this day all otters slide like that in the snow.

"Now it is my turn," said Lynx. He jumped, too, striking hard against the sky and falling back unconscious. Fisher tried then, but even he did not have enough power.

"Now it is your turn," said Fisher to Wolverine. "You are strongest of us all."

Wolverine leaped. He struck hard against the sky and fell back, but he did not give up. He leaped again and again until he had made a crack in the sky. Once more he leaped and finally broke through. Fisher jumped through the hole in the sky after him.

The skyland was a beautiful place. It was warm and sunny, and there were plants and flowers of all kinds growing. They could hear the singing of birds all around

How Fisher Went to the Skyland: The Origin of the Big Dipper

continued from previous page

them, but they could see no people. They went farther and found many long lodges. When they looked inside, they found that there were cages in the lodges. Each cage held a different bird.

"These will make for fine hunting," Fisher said. "Let us set them free."

Quickly Wolverine and Fisher chewed through the rawhide that bound the cages together and freed the birds. The birds all flew down through the hole in the sky. So there are many kinds of birds in the world today.

Wolverine and Fisher now began to make the hole in the skyland bigger. The warmth of the skyland began to fall through the hole and the land below began to grow warmer. The snow began to melt and the grass and plants beneath the snow began to turn green. But the sky people came out when they saw what was happening. They ran toward Wolverine and Fisher, shouting loudly.

"Thieves," they shouted. "Stop taking our warm weather!"

Wolverine jumped back through the hole to escape, but Fisher kept making the hole bigger. He knew that if he didn't make it big enough, the sky people would quickly close the hole again and it would be winter again in the land below. He chewed the hole larger and larger. Finally, just when the sky people were very close, he stopped.

The hole was big enough for enough warm weather for half of the year to escape through, but it was not big enough for enough warm weather to last all the time. That is why the winter still comes back every year. Fisher knew that the sky people might try to close the hole in the sky. He had to take their attention away from it and so he taunted them.

"I am Fisher, the great hunter," he said. "You cannot catch me." Then he ran to the tallest tree in the skyland. All the sky people ran after him. Just as they were about to grab him, he leaped up into the tree and climbed to the highest branches, where no one could follow.

At first the sky people did not know what to do. Then they began to shoot arrows at him.



How Fisher Went to the Skyland: The Origin of the Big Dipper

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But Fisher wasn't hurt, for he had a special power. There was only one place on his tail where an arrow could kill him. Finally, though, the sky people guessed where his magic was and shot at that place. An arrow struck the fatal spot. Fisher turned over on his back and began to fall.

But Fisher never struck the Earth. Gitchee Manitou took pity on him because he had kept his promise and done something to help all the people. Gitchee Manitou placed Fisher high up in the sky among the stars.

If you look up into the sky, you can still see him, even though some people call that pattern of stars The Big Dipper. Every year he crosses the sky. When the arrow strikes him, he rolls over onto his back in the winter sky. But when the winter is almost ended, he faithfully turns to his feet and starts out once more on his long journey to bring the warm weather back to the Earth.

For Discussion / Reflection:

The themes of determination, sacrifice and cooperation are an important part of this story. The story is also about seasons. "How Fisher Went to the Skyland" is an unusual story because myths throughout the world describe the Big Dipper as a Great Bear. In life, the fisher is a fox-sized animal that is closely related to weasels. It plays and hunts using fox-like movements. The fisher's fur varies from greyish brown or reddish above to black and dark brown below, although the belly is sometimes dappled with white. Legs, belly and tail are usually black. Despite its name, the fisher dislikes water and hunts not fish but squirrels and other small animals

The Great Bear, Ursa Major, is the most well-known of all the constellations, which are associated groups of stars that cover certain areas in the sky. The Big Dipper is only a portion of the constellation of the Great Bear, while the seven stars of the Little Dipper outline the entire constellation called the Little Bear, Ursa Minor.

Even though stars appear to create images as we view them overhead, they are often very distant from one another. The stars of the Pleiades are an exception, all being about 400 light-years away.

There are 88 constellations and 41 of them can be seen from the northern hemisphere. Some star pictures, like the Big Dipper, Little Dipper, Cassiopeia, Cepheus and Draco, are circumpolar; they are located close to the North Star and are visible all year long. Other constellations are more prominent at different seasons.

CONSTELLATION

PAGE 16

Stories from the MAPS Region

Planetarium Programs supporting Instruction in the WCSD

by Mark Percy

I have developed these grade level guides to make it really easy for teachers to connect our New York State science standards to specific planetarium programs. These could serve as templates for folks in other states and/or with different programs that they offer. The point is to give the teacher a really easy way to justify their planetarium visit.

NYS Science Learning Standards - Fourth Grade:

4-ESS1-1 Identify evidence from patterns in rock formations and fossils in rock layers to support an explanation for changes in landscape over time. <u>Click HERE to download all of</u> <u>Mark's templates that you can</u> <u>modify for your own use.</u>

ESS1.C The History of Planet Earth: Patterns of rock formations reveal changes over time due to earth forces, such as earthquakes.

ESS2.B Plate Tectonics and Large-Scale System Interactions: Mountain ranges, deep ocean trenches, ocean floor structures, earthquakes and volcanoes occur in patterns.

4-PS4-2. Develop a model to describe that light reflecting from objects and entering the eye allows objects to be seen.

Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs

This program discusses the concepts of stratigraphy (rock layering) and paleontology (formation of fossils). It also includes a discussion of the K-Pg boundary and the evidence that a large impact is responsible for the extinction of dinosaurs. (4-ESS1-1)

<u>Our Violent Planet</u>

Experience breathtaking visualizations of major earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, and tsunamis of recent history. Learn about the power within the Earth, and how we should appreciate it. Why do these events occur, and what can we do to be ready for them? Find out in Our Violent Planet! (ESS1.C)

Cosmic Colors: An Adventure Along the Spectrum

Cosmic Colors will take you on a wondrous journey through the world of color and beyond! Discover why the sky is blue, why Mars is red, and the reason why many things are the color that they are. Tour the interior of a plant leaf, voyage through a human eye, then step into the invisible universe as you investigate x-rays by taking on a monstrous black hole. Explore the world of infrared in a roaring fire, and even discover what may have been the actual color of a dinosaur. (4-PS4-2)

Native American Folklore

This program is a retelling of several Native American folklore tales. Several short stories about the sky, the world, day and night, seasons, animal camouflage, the Moon, and other topics are accompanied by art and illustrations in the planetarium sky. This classic program has been re-mastered and revised. (Social Studies)

Follow the Drinking Gourd

This sky show, based on the book "Follow the Drinking Gourd" by Jeanette Winter, is a story of a family escaping from the South during the era of slavery in the U.S.A. The students may "sing along" with a song that explains how to use the gourd (Big Dipper) to travel north to the Underground Railroad and on to freedom. (Social Studies)

How All the Stars Came

shared here by April Whitt

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: This is the latest in a multi-part series of stories shared by April Whitt. This story is from <u>A Treasury of African Folklore: The</u> <u>Oral Literature Traditions, Myths, Legends, Epics, Tales, Recollections,</u> <u>Wisdom, Sayings, and Humor of Africa</u> by Harold Courlander

Ebopp (the lemur) and Mbaw (the mouse) were making a tour in the bush. They looked for a good place to cut a farm. When one was found they cut down the trees, and took two days to clear enough ground. After this they went back to the town where the other animals were living.

Next morning Ebopp said, "Let us go back to our new farms and build a small house." This they did. Ebopp made his, and Mbaw his.

Now before a new town is begun, a little shed called Ekpa Natan (House Without Walls) is made where the Egbo house is to stand. Ebopp and Mbaw accordingly set to work and built an Ekpa Ntan. Then they went back to their old town and rested for two days.

On the third day they went to work again. Ebotpp worked on his farm, Mbaw on his. That night they slept in the huts they had built, and at dawn started to work once more. When night came, Ebopp lighted a lamp and said, "I do not want to sleep here. If we sleep here, we shall sleep hungry. Let us go back to our old town."

When they got there their wives cooked for them. Ebopp said to Mbaw, "Come and

join together with me in eating." So his friend came and ate with him.

Afterwards, Mbaw said, "Let us go to my house and have food too." So they went thither.

After they had eaten up all the food Mbaw had cooked, Ebopp went home.

Next morning he went to call his friend and said, "Go and get young plantains to plant in the farm." Both of them collected a great basket full of these, and went to the place where the new farms were, Ebopp to his, and Mbaw to his.

Both worked hard. At midday Ebopp said, "Let us rest a little while, and eat the food we have brought." To this Mbaw agreed, but after some time they set to work again.

About five o'clock Ebopp called, "Let us go back now to the old town, for it is very far off."

So they left off working and went back, but before they could get there night fell.

Next morning they took more young plantains, and again worked hard all day.

How All the Stars Came

When it was time to go back, Ebopp asked, "How many remain to plant of the young plantains?" Mbaw answered, "About forty." On which Ebopp said, "Of mine also there remain about forty."

At dawn next day they went to their old farms to get some more plantain cuttings. Then they went on to the new farms and began planting. So soon as he had finished, Ebopp said, "I have finished mine." To which Mbaw replied, "Mine also are finished."

Ebopp said, "My work is done, I need only come here for the hunting."

Then they both went back to the old town and told their wives: "We have finished setting the plantains. We hope that you will go and plant your coco-yams tomorrow. Try, both of you, to get baskets full of coco-yams for the planting."

To this the women agreed, and when they had collected as many as were necessary, they set out for the new farms.

When they arrived, Mbaw's wife asked the wife of Ebopp, "Do you think we can finish planting all these today?" Ebopp's wife answered, "Yes, we can do it."

All day they worked hard, and at night went home and said, "We have finished planting all the coco-yams." Ebopp said, "Good. You have done well."

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Now his wife's name was Akpan Anwan (Akpan means firstborn). She and her sister Akandem were the daughters of Obassi Ossaw (the sky god). When she got home she started to cook the evening meal for her husband. When it was ready she placed it upon the table, set water also in a cup, and laid spoons nearby.

They were eating together when a slave named Umaw ran in. He had just come from the town of Obassi Ossaw. He said, "I would speak to Ebopp alone." When Akpan Anwan had left the room, the messenger said, "You are eating, but I bring you news that Akandem is dead."

Ebopp called out aloud in his grief, and sent a messenger to call his friend Mbaw.

So soon as the latter heard he came running and said, "What can we do? We are planting new farms and beginning to build a new town. There is hardly any food to be got. How then can we properly hold the funeral customs?"

Ebopp said, "Nevertheless, I must try my best." When Umaw got ready to return, Ebopp said, "Say to Obassi Osaw 'Wait for me for six days, then I will surely come."

Next morning he said to Mbaw, "Come now, let us do our utmost to collect what is necessary for the rites of my sister-inlaw."

How All the Stars Came

They went round the town and bought all the food which they could find. Then Ebopp went back and said to his wife: "I did not wish to tell you before about the death of your sister, but today I must tell you. Get ready. In five days' time I will take you back to your father's town to hold the funeral feast."

Akpan Anwan was very grieved to hear of this and wept. Ebopp said to Mbaw: "We must get palm wine for the feast, also rum for libations. How can we get these? I have no money and you also have none." Mbaw said, "Go round among the townsfolk and see if any of them will lend you some."

Ebopp said, "Good," and began to walk up and down, begging from all his friends, but none would give to him, though it was a big town. At last he went down to the place where they were making palm oil by the river. Near to this lived Iku (water chevrotain - also called a fanged deer). Ebopp told his trouble and begged help, but Iku said, "I am very sorry for you, but I have nothing to give."

Ebopp was quite discouraged by now, and turned to go away full of sorrow. When Iku saw this he said: "Wait a minute, there is one thing I can do. You know that I have the 'four eyes.' I will give you two, and with them you can buy all that you need."

From out of his head he took the two eyes with which he used to see in the dark.

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They shone so brightly that Ebopp knew they were worth a great price. He took them home and showed them to his wife and his friend Mbaw.

The latter said, "From today you are freed from all anxiety. With those you can buy all that is needed."

Next morning they gathered together all that had been collected, the plantains and the two shining eyes. Ebopp, Mbaw and Akpan carried the loads between them. They set out for the dwelling place of Obassi Osaw.

When they got to the entrance of the town, Akpan Anwan began to weep bitterly. She threw down her burden and ran to the spot where her sister was buried. Then she lay down on the grave and would not rise again.

Ebopp carried his own load into the house where the dead woman had dwelt. Then he went and got his wife's load that she had left behind.

The townsfolk said to Ebopp: "You have come to keep your sister-in-law's funeral customs today. Bring palm wine. Bring rum also for the libations and let us hold the feast."

Ebopp said: "I have brought nothing but plantains. All else that is necessary I mean to buy here."

How All the Stars Came

Now there was a famine in Obassi Osaw's town, so Ebopp put all his plantains in the Egbo house. Next day he sent to Obassi Osaw to bring his people, so that the food might be divided among them. Each man got one.

Then Osaw said, "All that you brought is eaten. If you can give us no more, you shall not take my daughter back with you to your country.

Ebopp went to find his friend, and told him what Obassi had said.

"Shall I sell the two eyes?" he asked. "They are worth hundreds and hundreds of plantains, and many pieces of cloth, but if I sell them now, the people are so hungry, they will receive only a small price."

Mbaw said, "Do not mind. See, I will teach you how to get more sense. You hold one in your hand, and it is a big thing like a great shining stone, but if you put it in mortar and grind it down, it will become, not one, but many, and some of the small pieces you can sell."

This Ebopp did, and ground up the great bright stones which had been Iku's eyes till they became like shining sand.

Then they went and got a black cap, which they filled with the fragments.

Mbaw said, "Now go and look round the

continued from previous page

town till you find someone who can sell what we need."

Ebopp did so, and in the house of Effion Obassi he saw great stores hidden – food and palm wine, palm oil in jars, and rum for the sacrifice.

Ebopp said to Effion, "If you will sell all of this to me I will give you in exchange something which will make all the townsfolk bow down before you."

Effion said, "I will not sell all, but half of what I have I will sell you."

So Ebopp said: "Very well. I will take what you give me, only do not open the thing I shall leave in exchange till I have got back to my own country. When you do open it, as I said before, all the townsfolk will bow down before you."

So the funeral was made, and the people were satisfied.

When the rites were finished, Obassi said: "It is good. You can go away now with your wife."

So Ebopp said to Mbaw and Akpan Anwan: "Come, let us go back to our own town. We must not sleep here tonight."

When they had reached home once more, Ebopp sent a slave named Edet to Effion Obassi with the message: "You can open

How All the Stars Came

the cap now. I have reached my town again." It was evening time, but Effion at once sent to call the townspeople and said, "I have a thing here which is worth a great price." They cried, "Let us see it." He answered, "My thing is a very good thing, such as you have never seen before."

He brought the cap outside and opened it before them. All the shining things fell out. As they fell a strong breeze came and caught them and blew them all over the town. They lay on the roads and on the floors of the compounds, each like a little star.

All the children came round and began picking them up. They gathered and gathered. In the daytime they could not see them, but every night they went out and sought for the shining things. Each one that they picked up they put in a box. At length many had been got together and shone like a little sun in the box. At the end of about a month nearly all had been collected. They could not shut down the lid, however, because the box was too full, so when a great breeze came by it blew all the shining things about again. That is why sometimes we have a small moon and plenty of stars shining round it, while sometimes we have a big moon and hardly any stars are to be seen. The children take a month to fill the box again.

continued from previous page

When the sparkles were scattered about the town, Effion sent a messenger to Ebopp to ask, "Can you see the things shining from your town?"

At that time earth and sky were joined together, like a house with an upstairs.

Ebopp went out and looked upward to the blue roof overhead. There he saw the small things sparkling in the darkness.

Next day he went to Iku and said, "Will you please go into a deep hole? I want to look at your eyes."

Iku went inside the hole. Ebopp looked at his eyes. They were very bright, just like the sparkles which shone in the sky.

The cause of all the stars is therefore Ebopp, who took Iku's eyes to Obassi's town.

Iku's eyes are like the stars.

The moon shines when all the fragments are gathered together. When he shines most brightly, it is because the children have picked up nearly all the fragments and put them into the box.



MAPS Awards Committee Update

Committee Chair: Dr. Carlos Miranda

We are thrilled to announce some improvements to the MAPS award nomination process that will make it easier for our members to recognize excellence within our community. In an effort to streamline the experience for nominators, we've transitioned from PDF submissions to a fully digitized version. Now, you can complete and submit nomination forms directly on our website —no more downloading, filling out, and emailing forms. This update is designed to reduce the burden on users and ensure a more user-friendly process for everyone.

Additionally, all information about past awardees is now conveniently located under the "History" dropdown on the



MAPS website. This allows members to easily access and celebrate our rich history of award recipients. We'd like to give a special shoutout to our dedicated website committee for their quick turnaround and tireless efforts in supporting these updates. Thanks to their hard work, we've been able to enhance the nomination process while maintaining the legacy of our membership awards.

MAPS Program Committee Update

Committee Chair: Tony Kilgore

Update for Conference 2025: Due to the multiple venues being utilized for the 2025 conference, there are two sets of potential dates. June 17th – 21st OR June 24th – 28th. As of the moment, it's leaning towards June 17th through 21st. Once all venue contracts are signed and deposits are placed, the formal dates will be communicated immediately for everyone's planning purposes. This is not a vote, or an opinion of which dates work best; rather which set of dates can accommodate all the events of the conference. We expect conference registration to be released in January of 2025 as well as conference hotel details for your availability to begin booking your rooms at a discounted rate.

MAPS Membership Committee Update

Committee Chair: Mike Francis

Things have been fairly quiet since the conference, so there's not much to report. We have gotten two new members:

- Jacob Hamer from the New Jersey State Museum (Trenton, NJ)
- Carrie Fitzgerald from Montgomery College (Washington, DC)

Welcome to MAPS, Jacob and Carrie!

With the school year underway again, we'll be trying to connect with school planetariums that haven't joined or let memberships lapse. If you know of a school planetarium that hasn't joined, please let the Membership Committee know and we'll introduce them to MAPS.



We seem to have an open rate on emails of around 50%. If you're reading the current issue of The Constellation, but didn't get to it from an email, please let me know so we can see if we need to update your email address. <u>membership@mapsplanetarium.org</u>.

Upcoming Deadlines for Submissions to Future Issues of the Constellation:

WINTER 2024: Friday, December 6, 2024 **SUMMER 2024:** Friday, June 6, 2024

SPRING 2025: Friday, March 7, 2025 FALL 2025: Friday, September 5, 2025

FALL 2024

MAPS Grants Committee Update

Ad-Hoc Committee Chair: Stephen Dubois

Unlocking Hidden Opportunities: Educational Research Grants You Might Not Know About!

In our ongoing quest to inspire wonder and deepen understanding of the cosmos, we often rely on innovative methods and cutting-edge research to elevate our programs. However, many of us might not realize that there are some valuable grant options available specifically for educational research that remain underutilized. These grants can significantly enhance our educational outreach and curriculum development, but they often go unnoticed due to a lack of awareness. Educational research grants are designed to support projects that explore new methods, strategies, and technologies in teaching and learning. For planetarium educators, these grants can fund a wide range of initiatives, from developing new interactive exhibits to researching effective ways to teach complex astronomical concepts.





By tapping into these resources, you can not only advance your own professional practice but also contribute to the broader field of science education. Take advantage of these resources to strengthen your proposal. Let's make sure these valuable opportunities do not go to waste! MAPS has an annual budget of \$10,000 for the Education Research Grants with a maximum of \$2500 per grant. Additionally, a much smaller \$200 grant is available for those willing to take on an Armand Spitz Regional Meeting as a means of sharing ideas and expertise.

For more information check out the <u>Grants tab</u> on the MAPS website. We would love to be able to review submissions for 2024 and 2025!

Grant Review Committee:

- Susan Button
- Kristin Chon
- Stephen Dubois (chair)

MAPS Strategic Planning Report

<u>MAPS Strategic Planning Committee Report to the MAPS Executive Committee</u> <u>September 3, 2024</u>

by Steven Mitch, Chair of the MAPS Strategic Planning Committee

The Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) has completed the work it started in November of 2020. The early progress of the committee was hampered somewhat due to the Covid-19 pandemic, but as the nation slowly recovered, our work became more consistent.

The SPC took a great deal of time to review all of the existing MAPS documents, guidelines, policies, and also took a deep dive into the overall health and vitality of the Society. Our reviews discovered numerous deficiencies, outdated language, and many issues that needed to be addressed and dealt with. We discovered that our work was going to be lengthy as we realized the scope of the tasks before us.

We feel that we have sufficiently addressed these areas with the valuable input and actions of the Executive Committee, Committee Chairs, and the at-large membership of the Society.

This report itemizes the work accomplished by the SPC. The following lists the areas that were addressed and the outcomes accomplished.

Review of the MAPS Mission Statement

• No change

Review of MAPS Constitution

• No change

Review of the MAPS By-Laws - Changes as follows:

- Language clarity throughout
- Gender-neutral modifications throughout
- Change in the calendar date for commencing the Terms of Office for efficiency. Required a vote by the membership.

Review of Executive Committee Handbook – Changes as follows:

- Added an Executive Committee Calendar highlighting specific dates and times for critical tasks.
- Included job descriptions for Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs.
- Included specific duties and responsibilities for Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs.

MAPS Strategic Planning Report

<u>MAPS Strategic Planning Committee Report to the MAPS Executive Committee</u> <u>September 3, 2024</u>

Review of all Guidelines and Policies set forth by the Society – Changes as follows:

- Conference Guidelines made changes to language, timelines, and expectations. Brought them up-todate with current trends of the Society.
- Prospective Conference Host Guidelines – made changes to language, timelines and expectations. Brought them up-to-date with current trends of the Society.
- Vendor Policies and Guidelines made changes to language, timelines and expectations. Brought them upto-date with current trends of the Society.
- Awards Guidelines made changes to language, criteria, timelines and expectations. Modified some of the application forms for awards.

Other recommendations were proposed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Society. Swift action and implementation by the Executive Committee have produced positive and meaningful results. These are as follows:

• All prospective nominees for Office or Board and potential Committee Chair appointees to receive a copy of the job description and duties to be made fully aware of the expectations of the position they seek.

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- Enhanced communications among the Executive Committee by meeting more frequently via electronic venues.
- Enhanced communications with Committee Chairs for more efficient and effective outcomes. Deadlines for tasks set and adhered to.
- Enhanced communications and interactions with the general membership via Focus Groups, MAPS Chats and Virtual Meetings to stay abreast of current issues, seek resolutions, foster and exchange new ideas as well as fellowship.
- The creation of an Ad Hoc Grants Committee to facilitate, oversee and follow up on grant awards.

In addition to working on the above listed items, the SPC has some longterm goals for the organization to consider:

- Inclusion of committee presentations during the annual conference, and mandatory committee reports for the Conference Executive Committee meeting and the Business meeting.
- Frequent inquiries for prospective conference hosts to eliminate the chance of not having a conference.

MAPS Strategic Planning Report

<u>MAPS Strategic Planning Committee Report to the MAPS Executive Committee</u> <u>September 3, 2024</u>

• Develop a Public Relations presence for MAPS. Some ideas for this would include press releases on behalf of a MAPS planetarian that has been elected to office, earned an award, selected as conference host, honored to give the Margaret Noble Address, providing community activities or special events. National and international interests and events could also be of interest and promoted.

The Strategic Planning Committee recommends two additional items for the continued success of the Society:

- The Strategic Planning Committee, an Ad Hoc Committee, be convened by the President at a minimum of every two to five years. This should be included with the responsibilities and duties of the President.
- Ongoing clear, concise, frequent communication and meaningful dialog are paramount for the continued advancement and success of the Society.

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The Strategic Planning Committee has worked tirelessly to enhance and improve the planning and operations of the Middle Atlantic Planetarium Society. It has been an honor and a pleasure for me to serve as the Chairperson of the SPC and I am extremely proud of our team: Patty Seaton, Lee Ann Hennig, Paul Krupinski and Susan Button. Each of them has been a tremendous asset and a constant pillar of enthusiasm and professional dedication.

We have witnessed an amazing, energetic resurgence in MAPS with bright and dedicated individuals assuming leadership roles and empowering others to serve in progressive and meaningful ways to improve and advance the Society.

The future of MAPS promises to be wonderful and exciting. New technologies along with bold advancements in educational practices creatively carried out by dedicated planetarium professionals will reap great rewards going forward.

The MAPS Executive Committee would like to thank the Strategic Planning Committee for their hard work over the past four years. The implementation of their recommendations has had a profound impact on the progress of our organization!

PAGE 29

Excellence in education deserves extraordinary equipment.

When Prince George's County Schools needed to upgrade the Owens Science Center, in Lanham Maryland, quality could not be compromised. After all, the planetarium was designed by Margaret Noble and they are located, literally, across the street from NASA Goddard.

After careful consideration they chose a GOTO Orpheus Hybrid, a system that will fulfill the requirement for excellence for years to come.

GOTO, Ash Enterprises, and COSM are all honored to have been chosen to make this project a reality. Now let's see what we can do for your planetarium...



Sky by GOTO, photos by Patty Seaton



4-16 Yazakicho, Fuchu-shi, Tokyo 183-8530 Japan E-Mail: info2@goto.co.jp Tel∶+81-42-362-5312 URL: www.goto.co.jp/english/

GOTO USA LIAISON

4044 N. LINCOLN, 204 CHICAGO, IL 60618 E-Mail: mark@goto-stars.com Tel∶+1 317 537-2806 Contact : Mark Webb

Your Vote Matters!

Please review these proposed changes to the MAPS Constitution and By-Laws

The MAPS Executive Committee seeks your approval of the following proposed amendments to the MAPS By-Laws and Constitution. All recommended changes are made to incorporate the creation of a new Treasurer-Elect position. The rationale is included below each proposed change.

MAPS members will be asked to vote on these amendments during a period of electronic voting that will run from September 19-30, 2024. Any changes that are approved will be adopted on October 1, 2024 and will be in effect for the January 2025 MAPS officer election season.

Thank you for taking the time to review, and thank you for your active participation in shaping and improving our great MAPS organization!

Constitution, Article III (Officers)

Section 1 - The officers of the society shall be President, President-Elect, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Treasurer-Elect, Past-Treasurer, and three directors. Rationale: Adding positions of Treasurer-Elect and Past-Treasurer.

By-Laws, Article III (Officers and Their Duties)

Proposed edit to Section 8:

• Remove the following sentence - "The Treasurer will serve as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee"

Rationale: Transfer this responsibility to the newly-created position of Treasurer-Elect.

Proposed new Section 10:

• The Treasurer-Elect shall apprentice with and assist the Treasurer and in their absence or vacancy of office shall perform their duties.

Rationale: Language mirrors that of the President-Elect. The role of the Treasurer is a critical one for the organization and requires careful attention to the many ways that finances are handled. It takes time to transfer the responsibilities of Treasurer from one person to the next. Currently, if the Treasurer must step down for any reason, there is no easy transfer of responsibilities. Adding a Treasurer-Elect will ensure that a second person is trained and ready to step in during an emergency, and is well-prepared to take over full responsibilities after a two-year apprenticeship.

Your Vote Matters!

Please review these proposed changes to the MAPS Constitution and By-Laws

(continued from previous page)

This new Treasurer-Elect model ensures:

- Continuity an experienced Treasurer is either in place or available in an advisory role as a Past-Treasurer
- Succession Planning we have a plan for succession in the Treasurer position (just as we have for the President's position)
- Mentorship ongoing mentorship allows knowledge to be passed down from current to newly-elected Treasurer
- Institutional Knowledge this staggered structure ensures we have Past-Treasurers who can remain involved and offer guidance

Proposed new Section 11:

• **The Treasurer-Elect will serve as the Chairperson of the Membership Committee.** Rationale: Historically, MAPS has combined and separated the Membership Committee and the Treasurer positions depending on the needs of the organization. The creation of the Treasurer-Elect position allows the duties of the Membership Committee to remain under the Treasurer, with the incoming Treasurer jumping into a leadership role while learning the details of the Treasurer position.

Proposed new Section 12:

• The Past-Treasurer shall assist the Treasurer, and in the absence of both the Treasurer and the Treasurer-Elect, shall perform the duties of the Treasurer.

Rationale: Mirrors the language of the Past-President. Recognizes the change in the structure for the position of Treasurer.

Re-number current Sections 10-12 to become Sections 13-15.

By-Laws, Article V (Elections)

Section 4 - Terms of office shall be for two years. The President-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer-Elect shall be elected in odd-numbered years, and the Board Members elected in even-numbered years.

Rationale: Necessary changes to add the position of Treasurer-Elect.

PLEASE NOTE! Voting is currently UNDERWAY to choose whether or not to adopt these changes. Please check your inbox for a ballot, and if you have not received a link via email, please send a message to <u>membership@mapsplanetarium.org</u> ASAP!

Québec **Immersive** Films





-22.7°C

Directors: Molécule, Dirty Monitor Duration: 37 minutes Companies: fig55, Poolpio, Zorba Production Distributor: Hubblo

Synopsis: This film is an immersive experience in the Arctic Circle inspired by the adventure of the musical Molécule. The viewer will experience the musical creation of the artist in an extreme environment and explore the Arctic, a hostile world made of mystical sounds and vibrations



BÉBÉ SYMPHONIQUE

Director: Noisy Head Duration: 33 minutes Company: GSI Musique Distributor: Hubblo

Synopsis: Combining 2D, 3D and frame-by-frame animation, this multimedia show transports children from birth to 18 months and their parents into a marvelous universe of shapes, colors and textures, designed to capture their attention.



LANDS OF THE AMERICAS

Director: Patrick Bossé Duration: 45 minutes Company: fig55 Distributor: Hubblo

Synopsis: Like a travel diary, Lands of the Americas journeys through the works of René Derouin and the lands he has explored. Experienced in an immersive dome or through virtual reality glasses, this 380° film revolves around the artist's quest for identity, which spanned his 60-year career.



INTRODUCTORY ECONOMETRICS

Director: Lydia Yakonowsky Duration: 3 minutes, 45 secon Company: Lydia Yakonowsky Distributor: SAS DIVRSION

Synopsis: Introduction to Econometrics is an animated Synopsis: introduction to Econometrics is an animated film that explores how various aspects of economic modelling can be creatively visualized. Taking an off-kilter approach to the subject, it frees curves from the bounds of theory and allows them to roam in a living and complex data universe, where graphical grid-like surfaces evolve to create new spaces, vast walls, and ceilings like a canopy of stars.

ABOUT L'EFFET QUÉBEC:

Québec-based companies, creators, and artists are global leaders within the field of digital creativity, including interactive installations; virtual, augmented and mixed reality; immersive films and exhibitions; architectural mapping; and AI entertainment. They are renowned worldwide for their oreativity, innovation, storytelling, agility, and willingness to embrace risk.





ONCE UPON ... MY STORY

Director: Francis Gélinas Duration: 22 minutes, 30 seconds Company: Maki Media Distributor: Hubblo

Synopsis: Once upon a time... children telling tales from their own imagination in their own words. Brought to life in glorious animation, these stories brimming with charm, humour, and adventure blend reality and fantasy and plunge us into the unbridled imaginings of children.



Cher Upon my Story I

ONE SKY Director: Sébastien Gauthier & al. Duration: 43 minutes, 36 seconds Company: Sébastien Gauthier 360 Productions Distributor: NOIRLab

Synopsis: Award-winning movie One Sky is a collection of beautiful short films about constellations, astronomical instruments and scientific knowledge from various cultures around the world. Each chapter is presented in an original and engaging way with its own artistic style featuring the work of international artists.

UNTOUCHED

Director: Michel Lemieux Duration: 4 minutes, 50 seconds Company: 4D ART Distributor: 4D ART

Synopsis: Untouched is an artistic look at life during the pandemic. Bonds between people crumble as society drifts. There's a powerful urge to touch and be touched. Everything seems so out of reach. Untouched is an experimental film by director Michel Lemieux. It is a short and immersive film imagined by the artist while living in isolation due to the pandemic in 2020.

untouched



WORLDS OF ICE Director: Philippe Baylaucq Duration: 34 minutes Company: NFB (National Film Board of Canada) Distributor: Hubblo

Synopsis: Worlds of Ice is a 360° contemporary full-dome film that envelops the spectator within worlds of ice that oscillate between the deeply familiar, the unconventional and the transformative. 34 minutes in length, Worlds of Ice is an immersive unraveiling that reveals the many universe of Ice. universes of ice.

L'EFFET QUÉBEC:

The Export expertise cluster endows companies in Québec and elsewhere with shared and sustainable tools to facilitate discovery and networking among the industry's various players, sectors of activity, and markets.





FALL 2024







Update shared by: Noreen Grice

In early May 2024, the Pacific Planetarium Association (PPA) asked all regional planetarium presidents to gather information from their organizations for possible future collaborative work on inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA).

Inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility are organizational frameworks which seek to promote the fair treatment and full participation of all people, particularly groups who have historically been underrepresented or subject to exclusion or discrimination on the basis of identity or disability.

Since we had the MAPS Conference in Mystic Connecticut coming up, I decided to schedule an open forum to discuss this request. Many organizations, including PPA and IPS, have created specific committees to address and promote initiatives for IDEA.

At the MAPS IDEA forum, I facilitated a discussion of three questions. Should MAPS have an ad hoc IDEA Committee? What would our IDEA goals be for MAPS? What assistance does MAPS need in terms of reaching these goals?

In this open forum, we gathered thoughtful comments, concerns and suggestions on MAPS IDEA future

directions. The plan was that our feedback and suggestions would be shared as part of a panel discussion with other regional planetarium presidents in two upcoming conferences: the virtual Astronomical Society of the Pacific (ASP) conference, which I would attend, and the in-person Great Lakes Planetarium Association (GLPA) /Western Alliance Conferences (WAC). During our forum, MAPS Secretary Amie Gallagher took excellent notes so I could focus on facilitating the conversation. After the forum, I asked that any MAPS members who would like to continue the conversation to please let me know. Francine Jackson, Stoker Stoker, Steven Bradley, Jordan Ecker and James Bauman indicated their interest in joining the new MAPS ad-hoc IDEA Committee.

Amie Gallagher and I met with the IDEA committee twice over the summer. During our first meeting, we decided to create a brief IDEA survey to gain a better understanding of MAPS-member attitudes, perceptions, and the need for resources and strategies related to IDEA. The survey was approved by the MAPS Board and sent to all MAPS members. Twenty-eight MAPS members responded. In our second meeting, we reviewed the IDEA survey results and came up with three "opportunities for collaboration" that I would share at the ASP panel.

Update shared by: Noreen Grice

The IDEA panelists for the ASP virtual conference also included members of the Pacific Planetarium Association (PPA) and Rocky Mountain Planetarium Association (RMPA). I met with them virtually before the conference and shared the MAPS survey results. PPA and RMPA asked if I would share our survey form with them for their members. Eleven people filled out the survey through PPA and eight people in RMPA filled out the survey. RMPA also modified a few of the questions to gain separate insights on attitudes for visitors versus employees and volunteers, which you will see in the results. Then both organizations asked me to present ALL of the survey results for MAPS, PPA and RMPA at the ASP panel, which I did!

If you are wondering about the other regional planetarium associations, they

did not respond to the original PPA request for participation. However, a second panel (which will take place inperson at the GLPA/WAC conference) will review the combined results and encourage additional participation. PPA also plans to share the MAPS IDEA survey through a larger distribution network, such as Dome Dialogues, to encourage more responses.

We look forward to collaborating with other planetarium organizations where we can develop IDEA resources and strategies together. Please let me know if you are interested in joining the MAPS ad-hoc IDEA committee!

You can see the IDEA survey results for PPA, MAPS and RMPA in the images below and on the pages that follow...

Survey Question: Do you feel there is a need for inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility (IDEA) Resources/List of Best Practices for the planetarium field?



(Update continued from previous page)

Would you want strategies on Accessibility for physical disabilities? (On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being least favorable and 5 being most favorable)



Would you want strategies on Accessibility for neurological disabilities? (On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being least favorable and 5 being most favorable)



(Update continued from previous page)

Would you want strategies on encouraging diversity, inclusivity and equity for visitors, students, employees/volunteers? (On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being least favorable and 5 being most favorable)



Would you want strategies on Mental Health tools for visitors, students, employees/volunteers? (On a scale of 1 to 5 with 1 being least favorable and 5 being most favorable)



(Update continued from previous page)

Survey Question: Is there a Human Resources department at your facility that provides training on these topics?



Survey Question: If you DO have an HR department that provides training, what kind of training do you receive?

Sample Responses:

- Annual video/virtual training (5x)
- The DEI committee organizes events and resources
- A government HR dept. offers training
- We can get help from our Special Needs department
- HR training is not offered to volunteers
- No training specific to planetariums or visitors (x4)

Survey Question: What strategies do you use in your planetarium with regard to these topics?

Sample Responses:

- We work with local community groups in English and Spanish, Upward Bound program serving Native American students, and have an emphasis of building partnerships with local serving organizations.
- We provide captioning upon request.
- We dimmed the lights for autistic visitors, created descriptions for blind visitors, and are working on captioning. We strive to be inclusive.

FALL 2024

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA) in the Planetarium

(Update continued from previous page)

SUMMARY: Based on the results from this IDEA survey, we see these opportunities for collaborative work by planetarium organizations on inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility:

- Create a comprehensive document of guiding principles with sections on each of the categories from the survey.
- Develop strategies on normalizing / making people feel more comfortable about these topics, including why they are important topics.
- Identify speakers, from the education and science fields, who are experts in these topics.



www.ChromaCove.com - Ask Your Planetarium Systems Vendor for ChromaCove LED Cove Lighting!

FALL 2024



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FUN & GAMES

MAPS-themed Puzzles

Grab a pencil and PRINT out the last few pages of this newsletter - you'll want to make sure your print settings are set to **only print pages 41-44**, otherwise you will get 43 total pages flying out of your printer!

PUZZLE #1: Guess the year...

2025 will mark the first time that MAPS and SEPA have united for a joint conference since... what year?

As always, here are some hints in case you don't know the year off the top of your head... The FIRST digit is the number of IAU constellations that start with the letter "U". The SECOND digit is equal to the number of moons that orbit around the planet Venus. The THIRD digit is equal to the number of stars that exist within our solar system. The FOURTH digit is the number that completes the name of a Space-X rocket - "Falcon #".

FUN & GAMES

MAPS-themed Puzzles



<u>Across</u>

- 4. 2022 (ME) 5. 2012 (NJ)
- 8. 2023 (TN)
- 9. 2024 (CT)
- 10. 2013 (MD)

Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

- Down 1. 2016 (MD) 2. 2017 (MO) 3. 2015 (NY)
 - 5. 2015 (NT)
 - 6. 2014 (MD)
 - 7.2019 (SC)

SALLY RIDE

FUN & GAMES

MAPS-themed Puzzles

PUZZLE #3: SPACE QUOTE PUZZLE

Can you drop the letters into the proper places to complete the quote about space? For a refresher on how to complete the "Fallen Letters Puzzle," please see the last few pages of the Spring 2024 issue of the MAPS Constellation.

В	Н	E			В	A									
L	н	Ε	G		D	Е	G	G		D					
Т	0	Ι	К	н	Т	Ι	R	L	Е	ο	К			Т	
Т	R	0	Y	S	Т	0	R	S	0	R	0	N	В	U	Т



FUN & GAMES

MAPS-themed Puzzles

PUZZLE #4: PLANET ELIMINATOR!

Our final puzzle for this issue is a NEW one! In the "PLANET ELIMINATOR," we will provide you with a series of statements. Each statement eliminates one, and ONLY ONE, planet from the list of remaining planets. A sample first statement is provided, using everyone's favorite dwarf planet. When done in order, each statement will whittle down the list of planets, so that there will be only one planet at the end for which every single statement is TRUE!

STATEMENT:	THIS STATEMENT <u>ELIMINATES:</u>
I am recognized by the IAU as an official planet.	PLUTO
I have an atmosphere.	
I am named after a Roman God/Goddess.	
I have at least one moon.	
My axial tilt is between 0-90 degrees.	
I am one of the 5 ancient "wandering stars."	
I am NOT the biggest planet.	
My polar caps are made of frozen CO2.	

_ is the planet for which ALL of the above statements are TRUE!