



**CARNEGIE
SCIENCE
CENTER**

One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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SCIENCE CENTER TO COMMEMORATE 75 YEARS OF BUHL PLANETARIUM
ASTRONOMY-THEMED EVENTS, EDUCATION ACADEMY TO FETE PITTSBURGH ICON

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 29, 2014 – To commemorate Buhl Planetarium’s 75th anniversary, Carnegie Science Center is hosting astronomy-themed events this fall, including SpaceOut! Astronomy Weekend Oct. 11 – Oct. 12. The Science Center is also announcing the newly launched Buhl Academy.

Henry Buhl Jr. (1848—1927) was a Pittsburgh philanthropist who established The Buhl Foundation “for the well-being of the citizens of Pittsburgh and the County of Allegheny.” The foundation supports education, human services, youth programs, and economic development. It established Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science, the predecessor organization of Carnegie Science Center, in 1939. The original Buhl Planetarium was situated about a mile away from Carnegie Science Center’s North Shore location.

At SpaceOut! Astronomy Weekend, the planetarium takes center stage, offering visitors the chance to travel through the universe and to see a special presentation commemorating the Buhl’s history. Astronomy fans can discover how to navigate the stars, learn about telescopes, explore space through hands-on activities, and get an up-close look at meteorites and Moon rocks. Guests can talk to local astronomers, discover what’s new in the universe, make a sundial, watch the show “It Came From Outer Space,” and learn about astronomical sketching.

SpaceOut! activities run from 10 am – 4 pm all weekend and are included with general admission.

Weather permitting, experts will guide Safe Solar Observing, offering the chance to examine sunspots and other solar phenomena, from 11 am – 4 pm all weekend, outside the Science Center.

Weather permitting, SkyWatch will run from 9 – 10:30 pm on Friday and Saturday in the observatory, complete with a 16-inch telescope to see amazing celestial objects. SkyWatch costs \$2.

On Saturday, speakers will discuss astronomy topics in the planetarium:

- **Stargazing, Myths, and Ancient Folklore** presented by Larry McHenry, noon

Larry McHenry, from the Kiski Astronomers, will present an introduction to the constellations and their human interpretations across the ages. Discover the meaning of the constellations and some of the ancient myths and folklore of the night sky.

- **Tour of the Universe** presented by Dr. Shirley Ho, 1 pm

Join cosmologists from Carnegie Mellon University on a tour of the universe, starting from Earth, our solar system, other galaxies and black holes, and finally the edge of the universe. Passengers on this tour are encouraged to inquire and question what we think we know.

- **What's New in the Universe** presented by Dr. Andrew Zentner, 2 pm

Learn about the early universe with Dr. Andrew Zentner from the University of Pittsburgh's Particle Physics, Astrophysics, and Cosmology Center.

- **Buhl Planetarium 75th Anniversary Presentation**, 3 pm

The Planetarium presentation will focus on the Buhl's history, star identification, and recognition of the newly named "Henrybuhl" asteroid, a name bestowed by The International Astronomical Union this summer.

On Sunday, a Buhl anniversary cake will be cut at 2 pm with slices available while supplies last.

Buhl Academy will pair educators with local astronomers to collaborate in the development and team-teaching of inquiry-based astronomy lessons in the classroom. The teachers' students will visit the Science Center for more astronomy-focused inquiry, a planetarium show, and a question-and-answer session with the Buhl's Director and astrophysicist Dr. Brendan Mullan.

In culmination, Buhl Academy students will create short digital videos about an astronomy topic they discovered during the academy. Selected videos will be shown as trailers for planetarium shows next year.

For more information, visit CarnegieScienceCenter.org or call 412.237.3400.

About Carnegie Science Center

Carnegie Science Center is dedicated to inspiring learning and curiosity by connecting science and technology with everyday life. By making science both relevant and fun, the Science Center's goal is to

increase science literacy in the region and motivate young people to seek careers in science and technology. One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh, the Science Center is Pittsburgh's premier science exploration destination, reaching more than 700,000 people annually through its hands-on exhibits, camps, classes, and off-site education programs.

About Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

Founded by Andrew Carnegie in 1895, Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh is a collection of four distinctive museums dedicated to exploration through art and science: Carnegie Museum of Art, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Carnegie Science Center, and The Andy Warhol Museum. Annually, the museums reach more than 1.2 million people through exhibitions, educational programs, outreach activities, and special events.

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