The California Science Center is pleased to provide special insights to our generous supporters, Members and donors. Here’s what’s in this issue of *The Nucleus*:

- **How Science Can Build a Better Future – Interview with Ann Druyan**
- Upcoming Creature Feature Program on Halloween
- Science Beyond the Center
- ExploraStore Curbside Pickup Available
- Partners In Learning Annual Giving Program
- Virtual Backgrounds
- Renew Your Membership and Support Science Learning for Everyone

---

Science Center family, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe, healthy and continuing to learn. During these incredibly difficult times, your vital support enables the California Science Center to continue our mission to inspire science learning in everyone. As we adapt to challenges and find new ways to serve the community with educational programming and exhibits, we reaffirm our commitment to the Science Center’s core values of accessibility and inclusiveness that are at the heart of everything we do.

THANK YOU!
By Dr. Perry Roth-Johnson, Assistant Curator of Aerospace Science and Producer of the California Science Center's *Ever Wonder?* podcast series.

At the California Science Center, we love to wonder and be curious about the world around us. So when FOX reached out to us with an opportunity to interview Ann Druyan – someone who embodies wonder and curiosity – for our *Ever Wonder?* podcast, we couldn't have been more thrilled. Druyan's show COSMOS has educated and entertained millions of people across the world, helping them connect with science stories in a way that they often missed in the classroom.

In preparing for this episode, I came to realize the full breadth of Druyan's career in science communication, which stretches all the way back to her time as creative director for the Golden Record project that flew aboard the Voyager spacecraft. In many past interviews, Druyan is often introduced as "Carl Sagan's widow," but for our podcast, I wanted to highlight how much she has accomplished in her own right. For another key decision, I invited my mentor and colleague Dr. Ken Phillips to co-host this episode with me. As curator for aerospace science, he has a breadth of experience and perspective that helped hone the set of questions we asked Druyan.

Since the California Science Center launched the *Ever Wonder?* podcast in June, we have released groups of episodes every other Wednesday that take our listeners behind-the-scenes of the Science Center to hear how we develop our exhibits and take care of our animals. Ann Druyan’s bonus episode allowed us to include a long conversation with her, and to release the episode with the premiere of *COSMOS: POSSIBLE WORLDS* on FOX. An excerpt from the interview follows.

We're living in a truly unprecedented time right now and it can be tough sometimes to stay hopeful about the future. But here at the California Science Center, we believe that science is an indispensable tool for understanding our world.
to help everyone make decisions that can improve our future. Have you ever wondered how science can help us build that better future?

Since 1980, the TV show COSMOS has captured the imaginations of audiences around the world. The latest season of COSMOS: POSSIBLE WORLDS invites viewers to imagine a hopeful vision of the future and how we might use science with wisdom to make it a reality. To celebrate its premiere, we’ve added this bonus episode of the Science Center’s Ever Wonder? podcast series with a very special guest – Ann Druyan. She is the creator, executive producer, director and writer of COSMOS: POSSIBLE WORLDS. And joining me as a co-host for this conversation with Druyan is our very own Dr. Ken Phillips, Curator of Aerospace Science.

Ann Druyan – in the prologue of your companion book to the series, COSMOS: POSSIBLE WORLDS, you tell this story of Albert Einstein, giving a speech at the 1939 World’s Fair, where he began by saying, "If science, like art, is to perform its mission truly and fully, its achievements must enter not only superficially, but with their inner meaning into the consciousness of the people." You go on to say that you found in Einstein’s words, "The credo for 40 years of my life’s work." Can you tell us what you meant by that?

“Yes, and I think in this particular moment in our history, that feeling is even more valid than it was when I was writing the book and the series. And that is that we live in a civilization utterly dependent on science and high technology. And yet the knowledge that forms the basis of both is the preserve of a lucky few. And if we want to preserve as much democracy as we have and aspire it to enhance it and enlarge it, then having this tiny elite understanding the workings of science is a recipe for disaster. And this has been my credo for 40 years, it’s something that Carl Sagan and I articulated together, this fear of a world in which science and technology were a complete mystery to most of us. And yet we were expected to become informed decision makers and we can’t really be informed decision makers unless we understand the methods, the goals, the values of science.”

“So when I saw that YouTube video of Albert Einstein opening the 1939 New York World’s Fair, I had such a soaring feeling of joy that one of the greatest minds who ever lived saw the importance of this imperative to communicate science.” – Ann Druyan

“Druyan’s way of expressing both the power of scientific discovery and the urgency with which humanity must embrace science as a way of thinking offers us a badly needed recipe for hope at a very uncertain time in our history. It’s uncanny how directly that
resonates with our own mission of inspiring science learning in everyone because Druyan is first of all a teller of stories, not unlike the African griot who mesmerizes the village with tales about the creation of the Universe and humanity’s first use of fire—that sort of thing. Druyan is a teller of stories with a kind heart and I sure hope the California Science Center will get to work with her again.”—Dr. Ken Phillips, Curator, Aerospace Science

We hope Ann Druyan's how science can build a better future episode brings new listeners to our show, and that they'll explore some of our other podcasts. Up next, we're working on a series of episodes with the people who design robots.

**UPCOMING CREATURE FEATURE PROGRAM ON HALLOWEEN**

We are excited to host our next Members program, a virtual "Creature Feature" tour of our Ecosystems galleries on Halloween, October 31, 2020 at 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Stay tuned for registration details. We need your help designing the program! You can provide your input on what you would like to explore during the virtual tour by taking our brief survey.

![Giant Leaf-Tailed Gecko](image)

**SCIENCE BEYOND THE CENTER**

Missing your visits to the California Science Center? Science Beyond the Center gives you behind-the-scenes access to Science Center exhibits in ways you’ve never seen before.

Do you **ever wonder** who takes care of all of the animals at the California Science Center? In last week's podcast we were joined by Dr. Brittany Stevens, a veterinarian at the Science Center, who told us about her veterinary exam room, how she cares for so many different kinds of animals and even what it's like to do surgery on a fish.
You can also take tours through Space Shuttle Endeavour. Explore amazing images and insights from our curators and find out how exhibits are made. And check out some videos from our traveling exhibitions. New content will be added regularly.

Bookmark the Science Beyond the Center page and check back often to see what's new!

EXPLORASTORE CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE

For a limited time, same day curbside pickup of ExploraStore purchases is available within 2 hours from order confirmation between 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pacific time, Monday through Saturday only.

Stuck at home? These products will help the whole family sharpen their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) skills while having fun! Members and other generous supporters receive 10% off all web orders until the end of September as well as free shipping on all orders $50 and over. Use promo code: MemberFall10 at checkout.

Shop Science

PARTNERS IN LEARNING ANNUAL GIVING PROGRAM
Looking for a deeper connection with the California Science Center? Please consider joining the Partners in Learning annual giving program to help sustain the hands-on exhibits, programs and operations that make the California Science Center a world-class educational resource and treasured family destination.

**Become a Partner and Learning today to be invited to a virtual Lunch and Learn program on Tuesday, September 29 from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. to hear from Jeff Rudolph, President and CEO and Laurie Sowd, Senior Vice President of Operations about the California Science Center’s reopening plans that will be implemented once we have permission to reopen safely.**

With our doors temporarily closed to the public, the support of our Partners in Learning donors is vital to helping the California Science Center continue our mission to stimulate curiosity and inspire science learning in everyone. We welcome your involvement!

[Download](#)

**VIRTUAL BACKGROUNDS**

Download and use these free virtual backgrounds featuring some of our favorite scenes from the California Science Center during your video conference meetings.

Use this background designed specifically for our recent "Ready for Liftoff" virtual family program that is great for any video conference meeting!

[Download](#)
During these challenging and uncertain times, your support as a Member is critical to our ability to continue serving our community with free online science learning opportunities.

Please renew your Membership today in support of our mission to inspire science learning in everyone.

If your Membership is not due for renewal and you are in a position to make an additional gift, of any amount, we invite your contribution.

Your generous support will help sustain the California Science Center as a trusted educational resource while we are temporarily closed to the public. Thank you!

23,000 thermal tiles protected Space Shuttle Endeavour from overheating as it reentered Earth’s atmosphere to bring astronauts safely home.

Sponsor one of these tiles today and you can preserve Endeavour’s future by helping us build its permanent home – the Samuel Oschin Air and Space Center.

Renew
Donate
Sponsor

For more information on the California Science Center, visit our website at www.californiasciencecenter.org or call (323) SCIENCE (724-3623). For Membership questions, please contact the Membership Office at member@californiasciencecenter.org or call (213) 744-7504.

NOTE: The California Science Center Membership Office does not send unsolicited email messages. To have your address removed from our email program, unsubscribe below or send a message to member@californiasciencecenter.org with subject line: "remove from list." Please include your name and Member number in the body of the message.