

One More Thing The Library Can Get For You: The Moon

by Kaimi Rose Lum

It was a balmy late-spring evening when the girls of Daisy Troop #82548, revved on s'mores and the giddy delight of camping with friends in a woody backyard near the National Seashore, began lining up for one last activity before the fire was doused and the tent stakes pulled. A three-quarter moon was rising over the pitch pines, and we'd dropped Snow Library's Orion StarBlast telescope on a table on the back deck to see if we could get a closer look at it.

One by one the seven-year-olds stepped up to the eyepiece and peered. For a few miraculous seconds, each was still.

You'd think that, not only as a Girl Scout mom but as supervisor of Snow Library's telescope program, I'd have checked the 'scope out sooner. It sits in my office when it's not circulating, lens pointed up at the old popcorn ceiling which, now that I'm looking at it, sort of resembles the pitted, grayish-white crust you see in NASA close-ups of the lunar surface—a poor imitation of moon. And here I'd been these last few years, working away under its fluorescent spell, ignorant of the true celestial beauty I—or the Daisies of Troop #82548 or any CLAMS card-carrying Cape resident for that matter—could be seeing with the instrument parked on the filing cabinet a few feet away.

In the telescope's 20-mm eyepiece that June evening, the girls and some of the moms and I saw a wonder: the luminous oyster-shell face of the moon staring back at us, as close as the tips of our own eyelashes. We were surprised to see how textured it was, with hills and hollows and small, ridged circles that gave it a barnacled look. Cobbly contours receded mysteriously into shadow on its dark side. I'd set up the telescope according to the directions given by Peter Kurtz, a member of the Cape Cod Astronomical Society, at the library's periodic telescope trainings, but still it seemed marvelous, somehow, that it worked: out of the vague patch of sky that we'd trained the red-dot-finder on, a world had materialized.

If you, too, want to get closer to the moon, Snow Library will be offering another "Telescope Training and Stargazing 101" with Peter Kurtz at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 12 in the

library's Craine Room. Kurtz will show participants how to operate the "tabletop" telescope and give them an introduction to the night sky, including an overview of the planets, stars and other objects that will be visible in the next few months. Using the telescope is fairly straightforward once you've had the training and will give you access to some truly awe-inspiring sights. Call the library at 508-240-3760 to register; all who attend will be able to borrow the 'scope with their CLAMS card.

Snow Library will also be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the lunar landing with special events in July and August.

On Friday, July 19, Todd

Douglas Miller's documentary "Apollo 11" will be shown at 2 p.m. in the Craine Room. The film describes the events leading up to and the real-time unfolding of the historic moon landing by U.S. astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins on July 20, 1969. It includes never-before-seen archival footage of the expedition and riveting scenes such as the moon's surface looming closer and closer in the lens of Aldrin's 16-mm movie camera as the lunar module prepared to touch down.

Children are invited to make a colorful Planet Mobile at 4 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 6 in a craft program led by Ann Foster, youth services librarian (register by calling the library). And at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8, bring the kids to the Craine Room where they'll be able to mix up some Fizzy Rockets with Foster.

Last but not least, all are invited to visit the full moon display at the entrance to the Harry H. Snow Reading Room and post, on the giant cardboard moon, answers to two questions (choose one or both): What does the moon landing mean to you? Where were you when it happened?

In the spirit of new discovery—something your library can help with, whether through books or telescopes—we leave you with the words of Apollo 11 astronaut Michael Collins: "It's human nature to stretch, to go, to see, to understand. Exploration is not a choice, really, it's an imperative."

Kaimi Rose Lum is assistant director at Snow Library.



SNOW LIBRARY

Atwood Museum To Participate In Blue Star Museums

The Atwood Museum announces it will join museums nationwide in participating in the 10th summer of Blue Star Museums, a program which provides free admission for active-duty military personnel and their families this summer. The 2019 program began earlier than in past years, launching on Armed Forces Day, and ending on Sept. 2, Labor Day. Military can find the list of participating museums at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

Blue Star Museums is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in collaboration with Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums nationwide. First Lady Melania Trump and Second Lady Karen Pence are honorary co-chairs of Blue Star Museums 2019.

"The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to celebrate the 10th summer of collaborating with Blue Star Families, Department of Defense, and especially the more than 2,000 museums across our nation that make this program possible," said Mary Anne Carter, acting chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. "Organizations such as the Atwood Museum are providing wonderful opportunities for military families to share a memorable experience together this summer."

This year's participating organizations include fine art, science, history, and children's museums, as well as zoos, aquariums, gardens, and more. Museums are welcome to sign up for Blue Star Museums throughout the summer at arts.gov.

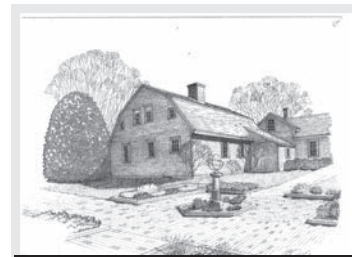
"We've seen the tremendous impact the Blue Star Museums program brings to our military families, and we're thrilled to be celebrating a decade of support," said Kathy Roth-Douquet, chief executive officer of Blue Star Families. "Not only are museums fun to explore but are

also great for making memories and strengthening military families as a whole."

"The Defense Department congratulates Blue Star Families and the National Endowment for the Arts on reaching an incredible milestone: 10 years of service to the military community through Blue Star Museums," said A.T. Johnston, deputy assistant secretary of defense for Military Community and Family Policy. "We offer our sincere gratitude to the more than 2,000 museums across the country who open their doors through this wonderful program. Your patriotism and generosity have enriched the lives and experiences of our military families."

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, along with up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

The Atwood Museum boasts of 11 exhibit galleries and an ever-changing and evolving array of exhibits. There is something to enjoy for every visitor, young and old. Some current exhibits are Main Street Cape Cod, Chatham Digs, the 100th anniversary of the First Transatlantic Flight, The Life Saving Services, the Mural Barn, and many more. They also host monthly lectures and special events like Pirates' Day, a Historic Bake Sale, Grub with the Grinch, and other fun and enriching experiences. Visit www.chathamhistoricalsociety.org to learn more.



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