



The Custer Institute (est. 1927)      [www.CusterObservatory.org](http://www.CusterObservatory.org)  
LONG ISLAND'S OLDEST PUBLIC OBSERVATORY  
1115 Main Bayview Road (South of Route 25), P.O. Box 1204, Southold, New York 11971; 631-765-2626

## UPCOMING EVENTS: WINTER 2009 - 2010

More events will be added and details provided about those listed below so please check our website for the latest info <http://www.CusterObservatory.org> Questions? Don't hesitate to contact [CusterDonna@yahoo.com](mailto:CusterDonna@yahoo.com) or call 631-765-2626.

**GENERAL ADMISSION.** Minimum suggested donation of \$5 Adults, \$3 Children under 14; FREE for Members. The suggested donation for the specific events listed below includes the cost of General Admission.

After the events, remain for refreshments and guided tours of the night sky through Custer's telescopes. The observatory is open every Saturday evening from dusk until midnight.

**IN-SERVICE CREDIT.** Letters will be supplied upon request from teachers who attend classes and other educational events.

Musical performances are, in part, made possible by grants from the Suffolk County Community Arts Regrant Program and the NYS Council for the Arts.

### **Fri., November 27, 7:00 PM      MEMBERS' NIGHT: LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH!**

A Members-Only (and their guests) evening for mingling, observing, enjoying the observatory and its resources, discussing Custer's present and planning its future together. Coordinator: David Van Popering. Admission: FREE for Members and their guests.

### **Sat., Dec. 5, 6:00 PM      HOLIDAY PARTY & SEASONAL CONCERT BY EAST END BRASS ENSEMBLE**

A delicious dinner cooked by Custer's staff (check website closer to date for details). All are welcome to bring a favorite dish or dessert to add to the buffet. Grab Bag: bring a gift, get a gift (maximum value \$10, please). 50:50 raffle, \$5 per ticket (limit 5 tickets per person). The East End Brass will play a selection of holiday favorites beginning at 8PM. Suggested donation; \$15 Members & their guests; \$20 Non-Members; \$10 Students ; \$5 Kids under 14. To reserve, email [CusterDonna@yahoo.com](mailto:CusterDonna@yahoo.com) or call 631-765-2626.

### **Sat., Dec. 12, 8:00 PM - midnight      GEMINID METEOR SHOWER PARTY**

The meteors from this shower originate from asteroid 3200 Phaethon and seem to radiate from the constellation Gemini. The shower extends from Dec. 6-25 and peaks on Dec. 13/14. The Geminids can average about 120 meteors per hour. Viewing should be good as the moon is near to new. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and join us as we watch another one of nature's fabulous sky shows. Suggested donation is the general admission rate of \$5 per adult, \$3 children, free for Members.

### **Sat., December 19, 8:00 PM      ALLEGRI STRING TRIO with WENDY FOGEL**

A special evening of classical strings. The program includes: Franz Schubert (Trio No. 1 in B flat, D898), Mozart (Divertimento in E flat, K563), Richard Strauss (Variationen über's "Deandl is harb auf mi," 1882), Ernst von Dohnanyi (Serenade in C Major, Opus 10). Suggested donation: \$10 Members, \$12 Non-Members, \$8 Students.

### **Thurs., December 31, 8:00 PM      NEW YEARS EVE UNDER THE STARS with MUSIC BY AHMAH ALI & FRIENDS**

Now in its fifth year, there's no better way to celebrate the passing of the old and welcome in the new. Refreshments include finger foods, desserts, and beverages (you're welcome to bring your favorite dish or dessert to add to the buffet). Dance to live r&b, jazz, and favorites by [Ahmad Ali](#) and Friends. Champagne toast at midnight, and more. Suggested donation: \$20 Members & their guests; \$25 Non-Members; \$10 Students; \$5 Kids under 14. To reserve, email [CusterDonna@yahoo.com](mailto:CusterDonna@yahoo.com) or call 631-765-2626.

### **Fri., January 1, 7:00 - 10PM      FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH LIZA COPPOLA**

Join us at Custer tonight as we ring in another year of special talent and celebrate the year's showcase success. Thanks to everyone who came to listen and participate in the First Friday Open Mic events of 2009. Tonight's host, Liza Coppola, will perform a special pre-show at 7:00, followed by the open mic at 7:45. For more info call Liza at 631-298-7030. Admission: FREE, but donations to help support our programs would be appreciated!

### **Fri., January 29, 7:00 PM      MARS AT OPPOSITION!**

Ordinarily last Fridays are Members' Nights but, on this special occasion when Mars will be close to the earth, Custer will open its doors and its telescopes to all who'd like a special look at our neighboring planet. While Mars won't appear as large as the moon, it's always a wonderful sight to see! Admission: FREE for Members and their guests; Non-Members: \$5 Adults and \$3 Children.

**See other side for more great events!**

**Sat., January 30, 8:00 PM**

**IT'S NOT MAGIC, IT'S PHYSICS: PART II**

A fun way for all ages to learn and be demystified! Physical science serves as the basis of all sciences. If physics is so basic, why do people think it's such a difficult science to understand? Understanding the basics about forces permit us to calculate planetary orbits, satellite orbits, and any motion we know in daily life. Similarly, understanding light is very important: We learn about distant stars and planets by studying the light they emit. Using the same knowledge, we study different materials. Physics can't be that hard! Through a series of simple demonstrations, we will explore physical phenomena that are part of our everyday lives and, by so doing, understand how such phenomena fit into today's science and technology. After the demonstrations, there will be a Q&A session. Presenter: **Dr. Helio Takai** is a physicist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, teaches at Stony Brook University, is the Director of the MARIACHI Project, and is a Member of Custer's Research Committee. Suggested Donation: \$10 Members, \$13 Non-Members, \$5 Full-Time Students.

**Mon. & Wed., Feb. 1-17, 7-9:00 PM**      **ASTRONOMY 101 with PROF. GEORGE LOMAGA**

This three week course (Mondays and Wednesdays, Feb. 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17) is aimed at students young and old who are new to the field of astronomy or who want to brush up on the basics; even the most experienced astronomers will learn a thing or two. Prof. Lomaga's teaching style makes learning easy and fun. Topics will include subjects ranging from the fundamentals of our solar system, to cosmology, to finding your way around the night sky, as well as areas of special interest suggested by class participants. Lots of fascinating things to learn and amazing sights to see. When weather permits, the class will be taken outside for in-field demonstrations and observing. Instructor: **Prof. George Lomaga** has taught astronomy at Suffolk County Community College and has been an active Member of the Custer Institute for decades. Suggested Donation: \$50 Members, \$65 Non-Members, \$30 Full-Time Students. To reserve: send in your check, email [CusterDonna@yahoo.com](mailto:CusterDonna@yahoo.com) or call 631-765-2626. IN-SERVICE CREDIT letters provided upon request to those attending.

**Friday, February 5, 7-10 PM.**

**FIRST FRIDAY OPEN MIC NIGHT WITH LIZA COPPOLA**

Are you a professional performer or interested in becoming one? This is a great opportunity for the pros to show the newbies how to do it, and for all you musicians, comics, poets, magicians and storytellers to learn, let loose and get experience in front of a live audience. Everyone else: come and see the stars of today and tomorrow! Hosted by talented singer and songwriter, Liza Coppola. Admission: FREE, although donations to support our programs would be appreciated.

**ON-GOING**

Every Sat. evening, from dusk until midnight, Custer is open to the general public. Staff provide guided tours of the sky (weather permitting) via laser pointers and powerful telescopes, and are more than happy to answer questions. Group visits by classes, scouts, and others are welcome (contact [CusterDonna@yahoo.com](mailto:CusterDonna@yahoo.com) to arrange). The facilities are also available for private functions.

**ABOUT CUSTER**

The Inst. began in the 1920s in a house on Cedar Beach owned by Charles Elmer and his wife, May Custer Elmer (niece of Gen. George Custer). A group of amateur astronomers met regularly at the Elmer house, and used a mechanism by which telescopes and cameras could track the movement of the stars to create some of the finest astrophotographs of the era. The club purchased the land at its present location and erected the first building in 1937. Founders Charles Elmer and Richard Perkin formed a company that produced the finest optical equipment in the U.S., including the Hubble's mirror. Over time, the Custer Inst. continued to grow and its reputation spread far beyond the North Fork. Custer has a long tradition of providing educational service to the community and in 2007 the Education Through Research program was started, giving students an opportunity to work alongside active scientists. There are numerous lectures, classes and workshops throughout the year taught by Custer's distinguished members, and by other local academicians and scientists. The Inst. supports the arts through its Music Project and art exhibits. Such activities are in keeping with Custer's foremost motto: "For the curious." It is a place where the questioning mind can exercise, be challenged, learn, share, and find camaraderie.

**BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP**

The Custer Institute is a 501(c)(3) N.Y. State educational nonprofit that operates exclusively on public support (proceeds from events, dues, and small donations); it has no endowment. It is staffed by volunteers dedicated to advancing Custer's educational, cultural and research goals, and its service to the community. In addition to the reward of supporting this unique organization, Members also enjoy the following: Email subscription to our newsletter, library privileges; discounts on classes, lectures, and other events; invitations to members-only events; voting privileges; access to the facilities; special training programs; opportunity to become an Observatory Staff Member. Dues: \$45 Individuals; \$60 Family; 25 Seniors/Students; \$100 Sponsor; \$250 Benefactor; \$500 Patron; \$1000 Corp. Sponsor.