

THIS
MONTH
AT THE



Griffith Observatory

May 13:

7:30 – 8:30 PM

FREE!

Sunset Walk

Enjoy a free hosted walk and talk, starting at the Observatory west terrace, continuing up to Berlin Forest, then returning. The walk is led by a Park Ranger from Rec and Parks and a museum guide from the Observatory.

Information:

www.griffithobservatory.org/pcalendar.html

Support the Griffith Observatory!

Consider joining the Friends of the Observatory (FOTO)

(213) 473-0879

www.friendsoftheobservatory.com

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Rec and Parks

Honoring Dr. Krupp

Griffith Observatory fundraiser celebrates its 80th anniversary, honors its famous director.

The fundraising group Friends of the Observatory launches Griffith Observatory's 80th anniversary year with "Stellar Evolution: Honoring Griffith Observatory and Dr. E.C. Krupp," an event paying tribute both to Los Angeles's icon of public astronomy and to the 40th anniversary of Dr. E.C. Krupp's leadership of Griffith Observatory. The celebration will be held at the Observatory Monday night, May 12.

The evening will feature a champagne reception; sunset over the Pacific Ocean; access to a hosted bar with champagne, wine, beer, and soda; brief presentations; and the chance to vote on one of three themed cakes, each commemorating an iconic feature of Griffith Observatory. Those attending are encouraged to bring a picnic to enjoy on the lawn. Stargazer tickets for the event are \$75 per person.

Those purchasing a higher-priced ticket at \$150 per person will be part of the VIP Stellar Reception in the Gunther Depths of Space, where they will enjoy a first-magnitude selection of hors d'oeuvres from Wolfgang Puck Catering, sip champagne and wine at a hosted bar, and mix and mingle with City officials, Observatory leaders, and more. These guests will also have reserved seating on the lawn for the presentations.

For more information on "Stellar Evolution," visit www.FriendsOfTheObservatory.com/Events. Advance tickets are required; no tickets will be sold on the day of the event.

Dr. Krupp, Club Member

In addition to the exhibits, views, and programs, Griffith Observatory also boasts its very own prolific author, world traveler, astronomer, and 40-year veteran leader, Dr. E. C. Krupp.

Dr. Krupp began his career at Griffith Observatory in 1970 as a part-time Planetarium Lecturer while completing his Ph.D. at UCLA. He was appointed the full-time Observatory Curator in 1972. In 1974, Dr. Krupp became the Acting Director of Griffith Observatory and was formally appointed Director in 1976. He led the \$93-million restoration, renovation, and expansion of Griffith Observatory, a project he conceived and shepherded through design, fundraising, construction, reactivation, and return to public service. The project was accomplished through a unique public-private partnership between the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks, which owns and operates the Observatory, and FOTO, the Observatory's non-profit support group, which Krupp co-founded in 1978 to help restore the building.

In addition to his work as Director, Dr. Krupp has had a long career explaining astronomy to the general public. He has written five books, dozens of research papers, hundreds of articles for general audiences, and four children's books on astronomy. His books include *Echoes of the Ancient Skies* (1983), *Beyond the Blue Horizon* (1991), and *Skywatchers, Shamans, and Kings: Astronomy and the Archaeology*

of Power (1997). He has collaborated with musicians and artists in a variety of projects and performances that link astronomy with the arts, and he often appears on local and national television and radio to interpret recent discoveries and developments in the field.

Dr. Krupp has led 40 field study tours all over the world in search of rock art, ancient and prehistoric monuments, sky myth, and constellation lore. He has often served as lecturer and eclipse viewing coordinator on global trips and cruises. He was selected as the 2013 winner of the prestigious Gemant Award given by the American Institute of Physics, the G. Bruce Blair Medal from the Western Astronomical Association, and the Klumpke-Roberts Award from the Astronomical Society of the Pacific – for outstanding contributions to public understanding and appreciation of Astronomy.



Taken from *Alive! Around The World*, July 2011: "I have been meaning to send to you another *Alive!* photograph since last February, when I was in London to speak at AstroFest 2011. I also returned to Kew for another look at King George III's observatory, and this time I remembered to have a picture taken on the observatory's meridian. It's not the Greenwich Meridian (I sent that picture to you a few years ago), but it's got a royal prerogative. Straddling one meridian or another."

A Chicago native, Dr. Krupp moved to southern California in 1957. He later attended Pomona College as an undergraduate, and received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of California, Los Angeles (1972). A commander-in-chief who answers his own office phone, and a lover of all things chocolate and Bob Dylan, Dr. Krupp resides in Eagle Rock.

Griffith Observatory

Colonel Griffith W. Griffith's founding vision, enshrined in his 1919 will, provided a unique place for everyone to observe the sky and the world around them. His observatory, from the beginning was focused on public observing, not research, with telescopes available every night. He required that admission be free to let everyone have a chance to become an observer. Since the building opened to the public on May 14, 1935, more than 76 million people have been exposed to cosmic perspective, just as Colonel Griffith planned.

After 67 years of continuous operation, the Observatory closed in 2002 for nearly five years of renovation and expansion. One of the most visited destinations in southern



California, and the most visited observatory in the world, was to be restored. The City of Los Angeles and Friends of the Observatory (FOTO) used the opportunity to expand public space (underground) and to focus the building on turning visitors into observers. The entire new exhibit program – from the planet orbits embedded in the sidewalks to the indoor telescopes targeted on *The Big Picture*, the largest astronomical photograph in the world – helps visitors experience the wonder and inspiration of observing the cosmos.

When Griffith Observatory reopened in late 2006, it still had all the features people loved, as well as new capabilities for the twenty-first century. The Samuel Oschin Planetarium had been transformed into a state-of-the-art venue for live presentations of stories about people, the universe, and everything. The new Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon theater, endowed by the actor and his wife, hosts a wide variety of public programs, most free, with astronauts, scientists, engineers, explorers, historians, and others bringing revelation, discovery, and excitement to audiences young and old. Monthly star parties put thousands of people "eyeball to eyepiece" with a lawn full of telescopes. More people have looked through the Observatory's 12-inch Zeiss telescope than any other telescope on Earth. Attendance for eclipses, transits, Shuttle flyovers, and other special events is astronomical. Thanks to FOTO, more than 26,000 fifth-grade students each year experience the transformative School Program. Constant as the North Star, the Observatory is open six days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, to welcome visitors to the "hood ornament of Los Angeles."

Griffith Observatory is owned and operated by Rec and Parks. The Observatory is located on the south slope of Mount Hollywood in Griffith Park. The building is open to the public six days a week, with free parking and free admission. Free public telescope viewing is available every evening the Observatory is open and the sky is clear. Additional information is available at www.GriffithObservatory.org.



Taken from *Alive!*, January 2014: Dr. Edwin C. Krupp, Director of the Griffith Observatory, was honored in front of the City Council for his selection by the American Institute of Physics (AIP) as the 2013 recipient of the Andrew Gemant Award. This annual award is given to one individual each year by the AIP Governing Board for "significant contributions to the cultural, artistic and humanistic dimension of physics."

