

CURIODYSSEY news FOR THE CURIOUS



Why Does CuriOdyssey Matter?

IN THIS ISSUE, MEET THREE PEOPLE AND HEAR THEIR STORIES

Child examining bearded dragon at CuriOdyssey

At CuriOdyssey, we give kids the tools scientists use and let them loose to observe what is, ask, "what if" and let the natural world answer their questions. We're 60 years strong and have impacted the lives of many kids in the community. Meet some of them now.

MEET TOMMY

"My son, Tommy, was three-years-old when he began taking the Growing Scientists class [at CuriOdyssey]. Tommy is the kind of child who needs extra time to become comfortable in new settings and with new people. He is a bit hypersensitive to certain things (smells, touch, noise) and becomes very upset when his hands get dirty. I have been enrolling Tommy in different classes to help desensitize him and to help him learn to socialize, but the class that has made the most impact on him is the Growing Scientists class.

On our very first day in the Growing Scientists class, the kids examined dirt. That is to say, the other kids examined dirt. Tommy just glanced at the bin and asked if class was over. But Teacher Cat had made magnifiers available, and that along with some half-eaten worm food, sparked an interest. Tommy stopped asking if we were going to go home. Over the last few months Tommy has had several opportunities during class to examine insects, reptiles and amphibians in their natural environment. Tommy still refused to touch dirt with his hands, but I could sense he was becoming more comfortable with the idea. Imagine my surprise this past weekend when he actually brought me two earthworms he had found. And he was carrying them in his bare hands!

One series of the classes was devoted to animals such as mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds. Teacher Cat

brought out different animals for the children to touch and examine. By the end of this session Tommy was enthusiastically touching anything that was offered to him.

What I didn't realize was that this attitude would carry over into another of his classes. I enrolled Tommy in Spanish classes around the same time that he started the Growing Scientists classes. He liked his Spanish class except for one thing: the puppet show. Each week they would use different puppets to help teach new words. Tommy has always been afraid of puppets. One day we were watching the puppet show, and a huge, hairy tarantula puppet came out. The kids all became very upset, with one little girl even breaking into sobs. Tommy just sat stoically on my lap, and I wondered what he was thinking while I reminded him that spiders are our friends. The

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**BUILDING THE MINDS
OF TOMORROW TODAY**

CuriOdyssey
AT COYOTE POINT

SAVE THE DATE:
SEVENTH-ANNUAL CURIODYSSEY
GALA: LET'S SOAR!

The future of science learning takes flight on Saturday, September 24, 2016 at the elegant home of Ann and Chris Aristides.

Please join us for our signature fundraising event - an enchanting evening in support of CuriOdyssey. Proceeds from our annual Gala help us give more children the power of science, so they have the tools to take on the real-world challenges of the future.

For sponsorship opportunities or to reserve your tickets, visit curiodyssey.org/gala or contact thaberman@curiodyssey.org.



...Continued from page 1

teacher stopped the class and asked if anyone wanted to come up and touch the spider. The kids became even more upset. I asked Tommy if he wanted to touch the spider. He said yes and jumped up, walked up to the puppet and petted it several times. When the other kids saw this they calmed down and some of them became brave enough to pet the spider. As Tommy walked back to me, he had a huge smile on his face. He knew he had done something that the other kids could not do.

I know that some of the improvements that Tommy is making are due to the normal developmental process. However, I fully believe that many of the changes I am observing are a result of Tommy's experiences in his Growing Scientist classes. Teacher Cat's gentle encouragement and the enthusiasm of the other children have made Tommy feel safe to explore, to create and to experience new ideas and activities that he could not or would not do otherwise."

- Tommy's mother

Join us to make a difference in more childrens' lives through the power of science.
Join our Capital Campaign: Building The Minds of Tomorrow Today.
Visit: support.curiodyssey.org

Why CuriOdyssey Matters

MEET SHIRA

Growing up in San Mateo and Belmont and a graduate of Carlmont High School, Shira Stein visited us many times - too many times for her to even count. She has strong memories of her visits. *"I distinctly remember sitting next to the bee wall and watching them move, going and looking at the animals, and playing with the colored bottle wall."*



Shira Stein

But one particular experience with us stood out and forever changed the trajectory of her professional life. *"When I was in the third grade, I remember going to the museum for an event ...[where I learned] how to extract DNA from a strawberry. I remember taking home the DNA in a centrifugal tube and being so amazed by it."* That experience sparked a life-long interest in science. Now a student at American University in Washington, D.C., she's a double major in biology and journalism, with the goal of becoming a science journalist.

Shira deeply believes in opportunities for all kinds of people within the STEM fields, and she hopes for accessibility to a broader audience. She believes that CuriOdyssey is an excellent place to foster a love of science, just like it did for her. *"I really care about having more diversity within STEM fields, and CuriOdyssey is a really accessible way for girls and people of color to learn and become interested in science. CuriOdyssey allows anyone to learn about science, and it majorly impacted my life. I have young nieces and nephews, and I want to be able to take them to CuriOdyssey when they're older so that they have the opportunity to fall in love with science like I did."*

- Shira Stein



The 2015 Gala



Gala attendees observing CuriOdyssey's boa

CURIODYSSEY LEADS TWO CONSERVATION PROJECTS AT COYOTE POINT PARK



Wells Fargo volunteers

We had a record 306 volunteers at our Earth Day Beach and Park Cleanup on Saturday, April 23, which we co-sponsored with the Coyote Point park rangers. All in all, approximately 3 cubic yards of trash (weighing approximately 500 pounds) was collected, including fishing line, glass, Styrofoam, and other materials which can be harmful to animals and people. There were volunteers from Wells Fargo, Oracle, PG&E, Salesforce, SF Fed Credit Union, Solar City, YMSL and NCL, YMCA, several scout troops, and several elementary and high schools, along with various individuals and families from the community.



CuriOdyssey's marsh restoration volunteers

This spring, volunteers from local schools, Solar City, and the Hillsborough Garden Club joined CuriOdyssey Science Educator Catherine Brett in a marsh restoration project in Coyote Point Park. Volunteers pulled invasive plant species to help establish a healthier marsh habitat. Benefits of restoration projects such as this are far reaching. A native marsh habitat provides the structure for native marsh animals such as the California Clapper Rail and is the basis for a healthy, functioning, sustainable habitat. Healthy marsh mud has living organisms and acts as a bio-filter for contaminants that wash into the Bay.

Why CuriOdyssey Matters

MEET BRAM

A regular visitor to us in his early years, later in life Bram was looking for a way to volunteer and give back, and he found an opportunity with us at the museum as an environmental art assistant. He joined The Wildlife Interpretive Guide program with his mom, and later became a Leader-in-Training for our summer camp program, followed by a stint as an Exhibit Facilitator. Volunteering at CuriOdyssey opened Bram's eyes to a variety of education styles. *"It really showed me how many different ways there are to learn. From experimenting with paper airplane designs, to meeting a snake up close and personal, to searching for animals tracks in the marsh mud, there's just so much variety in how you can gain knowledge about the world."*



Bram Wallace

As a student at the University of California, Santa Barbara, he has seen the effect of CuriOdyssey. *"The biggest effect it's had on me is definitely how I go about investigating things. Just this summer I had a job running simulations for a physics lab, and the question-your-assumptions approach that I've picked up from CuriOdyssey (especially the camps) was invaluable."*

Do you share in our believe of the power of science? Join us to help give more kids the ability to think like a scientist early on. Help us reach our \$35 million goal to build a new CuriOdyssey so we can reach even more Bay Area children.

Donate today: support.curiodyssey.org or get in touch by emailing jjones@curiodyssey.org.

CuriOdyssey's STEAM program



Kinectek Arts performer at STEAM!



Child creating patterns with a spirograph at STEAM!

Right in line with the national movement to integrate "A" (arts) into STEM, CuriOdyssey held its first *STEAM!* program this spring, welcoming hundreds of families and community members for an evening celebrating science, technology, engineering, art, and math. The full-house event was full of joy and celebration, highlighting some of the most creative and interesting artists in our area and how their work intersects with our general focus on science and environmental learning. "The great thing about an event like *STEAM!* is it allows us to show how our philosophy about science literacy is mirrored by the process of performing and visual artists. We both encourage creative problem-solving and out-of-the-box thinking and seek to challenge convention," says Eric Maschwitz, CuriOdyssey's Director of Exhibits.

Based on the success of this event, we expect to continue to find more ways to celebrate STEAM. When our capital campaign concludes and we move into our new building, we will be exploring opportunities to reinvigorate our programming with more art and performance, including using a new downstairs flexible space as a "Creativity Hub" for demonstrations, performance, art-making, and other creative projects that link our mission to the arts.

Summer Cinema Nights



This summer, experience a cinematic collaboration from CuriOdyssey and Exploratorium Cinema Arts. Families will enjoy a series of short, family-friendly films that celebrate creative observations, natural phenomena, and human and animal behaviors. Films will change each month, so it's a new experience each time! Our exhibits will also be open for after-hours scientific exploration.

Perceptions + Reflections | June 17, 2016 at 6:30pm & 7:15pm (doors open at 6pm)

M.T.X.S. (Rock Ross, 1990, 3 min) A dynamic, black-and-white animation that explodes with color when viewed through diffraction grating glasses.

Free Radicals (Len Lye, 1958, 4 min) A black and white scratch animation short that is cut to the insistent rhythmic accompaniment of an African drum solo.

Eights (Seth Olitzky, 1992, 6 min, 16mm) Explores illusions of three dimensions with colorful, kaleidoscopic imagery inspired by symmetry and abstract forms..

Science Playground | July, 15, 2016 at 6:30pm & 7:15pm (doors open at 6pm)

Into the Middle of Nowhere (Anna Ewart, 2011, 15 min) Focused on an outdoor nursery in a small UK village, Anna Ewart's short documentary glimpses into the bounds of a child's mind.

Dot (Sumo Science, 2010, 2 min) The record holder for the world's smallest stop-motion animation, Dot is a technical and creative marvel. At less than an inch in height, the titular character traverses a landscape of pocket-sized objects and full-sized surprises.

The Dresser (Joseph Herscher, 2015, 4 min) Rube Goldberg machine master Joseph Herscher imagines and enacts a more efficient way to start the morning..

Super Heroes and Superpowers | August 19, 2016 at 7:30pm (doors open at 7pm)

The Animated Life of A.R. Wallace (Flora Lichtman and Sharon Shattuck, 2014, 8 min.) Paper cutouts and puppetry techniques are used to tell the story of naturalist A.R. Wallace and his contributions to the theory of evolution.

Magnetic Movie (Ruth Jarmon and Joe Gerhardt, 2007, 5 min.) Semiconductor artists Ruth Jarmon and Joe Gerhardt animate the secret lives of invisible magnetic fields, which are revealed as chaotic ever-changing geometries.

Comfort of Cold (Sara Newens, 2008, 4 min.) This film takes a short glimpse at one man whose dedication to his health results in a ritual of frigid, but peaceful, swims through the San Francisco Bay.

Little Boat (Nelson Boles, 2011, 4 min) This film is a simple animation featuring a little boat floating along a river and meeting a range of near perilous situations.

Tickets:

Members: \$5

Non-members: \$10 per person

Innovators Circle (\$1000+): Free

Theater seating is limited! Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Please visit www.curiodyssey.org/activities/family-events/cinema-nights to reserve your seats.

SCIENCE AT HOME: EGGSHELL STRENGTH CHALLENGE

This experiment examines how something we think of as being brittle and weak can actually hold a heavy load under certain conditions. How strong do you think an eggshell is?

Grade level: kindergarten and older (with help from a grown-up)

You'll need:

- Four to six eggs (or a few more, just in case you break a few)
- One pen or marker
- Scissors or a sharp knife (adult help required)
- Heavy books

What to do:

Crack the end of an egg very gently on a hard surface to break it. Pour out the contents and reserve for later use for an omelet, cake or other delicious recipe. Rinse the inside of the shell to clean out the egg residue.

Draw a dotted line around the egg as evenly as possible. Using the line as a guide, carefully "score" the shell. An adult will need to help with this portion of the activity. To score the shell, use a pen or the scissors to poke small holes in the shell. Ensure that the scoring is continuous and encircles the egg.

Carefully break off pieces of the shell up to the line. You need four half eggshells of the same height. The scoring helps to stop the cracks from extending past the score line

Place the four eggshells in a rectangle shape and slowly place books on top. See how many you are able to add before the shells begin to break!

What's happening here?

Some shapes are stronger than others. Eggs, which seem fragile, are actually very strong in certain ways (try crushing an egg by squeezing the ends between your hands or maybe over a sink or outside).

An eggshell forms a dome. A dome is very good at spreading weight evenly in all directions so that no part of the dome has to support more weight than another part. The downward force of the weight of the books is transferred evenly by the dome shape down to the work surface.

Innovators Circle Contributors

The Board of Trustees and staff of CuriOdyssey wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support between January 1, 2016 and March 31, 2016.

Every effort has been made to be accurate. If your name is not present or you are not recognized properly, please contact Tavi Haberman, Development Manager at 650.340.7573.

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**Special thank you to these donors whose gifts the Campaign for CuriOdyssey were wholly or partially matched by our \$2million challenge grant from the TomKat Charitable Trust.*

Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following donors for tribute gifts between January 1, 2016 & March 31, 2016.

In honor of:

Sherry Matarrese: *Rhoderick Wallace*, Betty Barnes and the Auxiliary: *Joan Martel and David Mitchell*, The Boosalis Family: *Patricia and Angelos Dassios*

In memory of:

Bud Purtell: *Polly Taylor*, Mary Pat Tormey: *Constance M. Sevier*, Ted Taylor: *Dr. and Mrs. George Kammerer*, *Wallace and Jenny Lynn Richardson*, *Joseph and Doris Harvey*

Community Philanthropy Soared on SVGives Day

Major thanks to all of the community members who supported CuriOdyssey on May 3, 2016 – SVGives Day! With the community's involvement, we were able to raise an astounding \$42,691 towards our new serious science playground! CuriOdyssey placed in the top 10% of the large nonprofit leaderboard, with 68 total donors.

In addition to this great collective effort, we received a \$1,111 prize from Silver Spring Networks for being the STEM organization with the greatest number of unique donors over a one-hour period (2:00-3:00 pm). This unexpected boon boosted our overall total to \$43,902.

This support really makes a difference to us in our effort to transform CuriOdyssey into a state-of-the-art science center to reach the earliest young science learners. We continue to welcome your involvement and support as we continue The Campaign for CuriOdyssey! Learn more and join us at support.curiodyssey.org.

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Events (June - August)

CINEMA NIGHTS

June 17, July 15, August 19
Members: \$5
Non-members: \$10 per person
Seating is limited! Please reserve
your tickets on our website.

REPTILE DAY

July 30, 2016
Join us for a celebration of
reptiles! Meet our warm weather-
loving reptiles up-close, and see
what slithers, slides and crawls!

CURIODYSSEY GALA

September 24, 2016
To become a sponsor, please
contact Tavi Haberman at
650-340-7573 or visit www.CuriOdyssey.org/gala.

SCHOOL AND GROUP PROGRAMS

Begin October 2016
Registration begins in August
Looking for an exciting activity
for your classroom or group?
Our educational programs spark
passion for science and allow
children the opportunity to get
up close with the natural world.
Interactive exhibits, amazing
live animals, and high-quality
educational programs--all on a
personal scale--provide children
with an unforgettable experience.
For more information, visit
[www.CuriOdyssey.org/school-
groups](http://www.CuriOdyssey.org/school-groups).

ON-GOING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Animals In Action
Tues-Sat, 11:00am

Otter Feeding
Tues-Sun, 12:00pm

Bobcat Feeding
Tues-Sun, 1:00pm

Animal Connections
Wildlife Show
Sat-Sun, 1:30pm and 2:30pm