

CURIODYSSEY news FOR THE CURIOUS



Celebrating
60 Years
of Science
Learning

Children exploring air through our balloon car activity. Photo by Justin Miel.

CELEBRATING OUR 60TH YEAR

As we enter our 60th exciting year, we'd like to take a moment to reflect upon all of the incredible things that have happened during the history of the organization.

From its inception in 1954 as the San Mateo County Junior Museum that opened on a knoll in a Quonset Hut, to the expansion of its footprint as Coyote Point Museum for Environmental Education, to its more recent transformation to CuriOdyssey, the science and wildlife center for young children you know it as today, millions of people have been touched by the organization.

Though the name may have changed, throughout its history the organization has focused on connecting people with the natural world and giving them an up-close look at science and nature.

We'd like to deeply thank the public for its support over the years. Without your support and attention, we could not touch the lives of so many and foster learning and scientific curiosity. We look forward to many more years full of science learning and up-close experiences with natural phenomena.



Remember the hut? This is the San Mateo County Junior Museum's original Quonset Hut under construction.



Rabbits in the live animal collection

To honor the last 60 years of science learning and to propel ourselves into the future, we're celebrating with a festival of lift and things that go up! Join us for our Lift Off Festival on Saturday, October 4, 2014, and partake in hands-on science learning and experimentation - in true CuriOdyssey form!

Learn more: www.CuriOdyssey.org

New North Gallery Exhibition



In October, artist Mark Brest van Kempen will unveil an exhibition that makes visible the normally invisible currents and eddies of wind that surround us constantly in our home at Coyote Point. More than 100 weather vanes intertwined in a matrix of cables piece together art and science to interact with the natural elements.

Witness the unveiling of the exhibition in conjunction with our Lift Off Festival taking place on October 4, 2014



Cline's "Teathered" and "Otter" pieces.

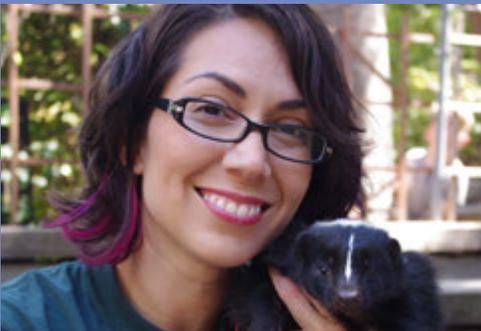
Animals abound in newest art exhibition

This fall, CuriOdyssey's North Gallery features an exhibition by local artist, Lee Cline. For more than a year, Cline has been studying the animals who call CuriOdyssey home. Her 25-piece exhibition showcases a range of CuriOdyssey's captivating native, non-releasable creatures and brings them to life on canvas.

A note about the exhibition from the artist:

I began this project really wanting to get to know the animals here. I wanted to spend time enough with them to really understand them—to capture their essence. This collection of paintings and drawings is as much about observing as it is about the animals themselves.

Cline's work has been shown and sold in various shows and venues over the years (most recently with Pottery Barn) and she participates in San Francisco's Open Studios each fall. She's self-taught in visual arts and has been working in oils and watercolor for ten years. The exhibition will be on display through December 2014.



Animal Keeper Mel with "Oliver" the skunk

ACCOLADES FOR OUR ANIMAL KEEPERS

CuriOdyssey's animal keepers were recently honored with the American Association of Zoo Keepers' "Certificate of Merit for Zoo Keeper Education Award." This award is in recognition of the wide array of educational opportunities CuriOdyssey provides to its animal keepers, including conferences, workshops and classes.

Hats off to our knowledgeable animal keepers!

Lift Off with Us!

Lift Off Festival
Saturday, October 4, 2014

Join CuriOdyssey for our 60th Anniversary with a celebration of lift! See firing rockets, flying discs, soaring falcons, floating bubbles, and all sorts of things that go up in the air.



See new exhibits, including a Pneumatic Ball Launcher and a massive pinwheel installation that highlights the chaotic wind patterns present on The San Francisco Bay. We'll also unveil a large-scale art installation of more than 100 weather vanes by artist Mark Brest van Kempen.

During the day, view demonstrations of "lift" by the San Jose Spiders Ultimate Team, Lily Cai Chinese Dance Company, Rebels Elite cheer team, and the San Francisco Bay Bird Observatory. Purchase your lunch from local food truck Capelo's Hill Country Barbecue.

Sponsored by:



SLITHER & SQUEAK: SAVE THE DATE!



Friday, October 24
6pm-8pm

Unmask the science behind Halloween tricks! Wear your costume and get hands-on with spooky science, meet nocturnal animals, and take part in science-inspired trick-or-treating.

On October 24, join us for Slither & Squeak to experiment with spooky sounds, study skulls, see pumpkins get pulverized, and watch wildlife.

Enjoy spooky (not scary!) decorations, and don't forget to purchase a sweet treat from the Kara's Cupcakes Karavan!

This event has sold out every year; get your tickets before they're gone!

A TRIBUTE TO OUR COYOTE



On Sunday, August 17, CuriOdyssey lost one of its long-time residents, Sierra the coyote. She was 19 years old.

Sierra was rescued from a private citizen that kept her as an illegal pet. Although she was young, she was too habituated to humans to be released back into the wild. Since her arrival to us, she helped educate thousands of people and allowed visitors see the beauty of her species and why they are an important and essential part of a healthy ecosystem.

She will be missed by all.

Experiment with Science at Home!

ACTIVITY: EGGSHELL STRENGTH CHALLENGE



This experiment looks at 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?

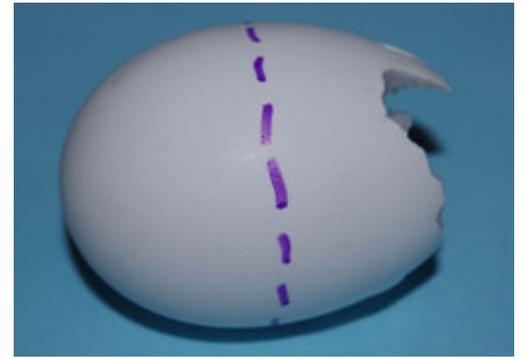
Grade level: kindergarten and older (with help from a grown-up)

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:

1. 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.



2. 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.
3. 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
4. Place the four egg shells 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).

Our egg shell 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!

Questions to consider:

- Do you think the color of the egg shell makes a difference?
- What happens if you try using eggs that have a different colored shell? If you used brown eggs first, what happens if you use white, tan or even the blue-green shelled eggs that you can sometimes find at your local farmers market?

Animal Adoption Stories

Love CuriOdyssey's animals? Can't get enough of seeing them playing in their exhibits or chowing down during feeding time? Does the message of conservation and animal care strike a chord? CuriOdyssey's Adopt-An-Animal program is an incredible way to feel a deeper connection with the animals who call CuriOdyssey home. This year we have seen a number of remarkable animal adopters.



Girl Scout Troop 62233 kindly pooled the proceeds from their cookie sales to adopt our snowy egret. The troop learned about egrets in school and was excited to extend the lesson beyond the classroom by meeting our snowy egret up-close in our Aviary.



Birthdays are also an ideal occasion to adopt an animal. For Maggie's birthday, she decided to celebrate with CuriOdyssey – instead of presents, she generously asked for contributions to adopt our boa constrictor!

This summer, we were thrilled to see local non-profit Palo Alto Housing Corporation bringing youth groups together to adopt several of our animals. During their annual summer "Kids in Action" program, participants researched animals at CuriOdyssey, created animal art in an art workshop and then raised funds through an art and bake sale. The kids doubled their goal of adopting one or two animals and were able to adopt our bobcats, western toads, golden eagles, a northern pacific rattlesnake and banana slugs.

Thank you to all of our adopters for helping our animals!

WELLS FARGO SUPPORTS COMMUNITY DAYS



Picture: CuriOdyssey trustees Kimarie Matthews and Holly Rockwood, CuriOdyssey Executive Director Rachel Meyer, and Wells Fargo Community Affairs Officer Mario Diaz.

We're so honored to partner with Wells Fargo, the Bay Area's top corporate philanthropist and generous sponsor of CuriOdyssey's free Community Days.

CuriOdyssey is committed to extending access to our unique science and wildlife learning center to disadvantaged and special families. As a part of that effort, we offer six free Community Days each year, reaching a total of 3,800-4,500 visitors annually.

CuriOdyssey thanks Wells Fargo for partnering with us in support of this important program dedicated to enriching our community and expanding access to science and nature education.

ADOPT-AN-ANIMAL PROGRAM



Consider adopting an animal at CuriOdyssey! Adoptive parents receive a personalized adoption certificate, detailed animal fact sheet, and a photo of their adopted animal. All of CuriOdyssey's non-releasable animals are available for adoption, and the contributions ensure our animals thrive! Visit www.curiodyssey.org/get-involved/adopt-an-animal/

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 April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

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 Associate at 650.340.7573.

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Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following donors for tribute gifts between April 1, 2014 and June 30, 2014.

In honor of:

Kat Taylor: Don and Janie Friend *Kat Taylor:* Steve and Roxy Klein *Linda Lanier:* Sheila M. Burke & Family
Marilyn Bancel: Patricia Moy *Santiago Noe and Julian Pedro:* J.P. Garcia and Margarita L. Mendez
The amazing wildlife staff at CuriOdyssey: Lisa Hicks-Dumanske & Family

In memory of:

Daphne Atkinson: Judith W. Barton *Daphne Atkinson:* Linda and Sterling Lanier *Jacques Littlefield:* Liz Ditz
Margie Delfosse: The Grimes Family *Ray Atkinson:* Atkinson Foundation *Sally and Jim Teevan:* Mr. Kelly R.W. Teevan

Thank you to our Gala Sponsors

The CuriOdyssey Gala – “Lift Off” is Saturday, September 20, 2014, at the home of Alexia and Ted Kruttschnitt.

Special thanks to our event sponsors for the 5th annual CuriOdyssey Gala, themed “Lift Off,” celebrating 60 years of science and nature learning at CuriOdyssey! For more information, visit www.curiodyyssey.org/gala or contact Tavi Haberman at 650.340.7573.

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Events (Sept - Nov)

SAVE THE DATE

CuriOdyssey Gala - Lift Off
Saturday, September 20

Celebrate 60 years of science learning at CuriOdyssey at our spectacular 5th annual signature fundraising event!

For more information or to become a sponsor, please contact Tavi Haberman at 650-340-7573

Lift Off Festival
Saturday, October 4
10am-5pm

Join CuriOdyssey for our 60th Anniversary with a celebration of lift! See firing rockets, flying discs, soaring falcons, floating bubbles, and all sorts of things that go up in the air!

Slither & Squeak
Friday, October 24
6pm-8pm

Unmask the science behind Halloween tricks! Wear your costume and get hands-on with spooky science, meet nocturnal animals, and take part in science-inspired trick-or-treating. Purchase a sweet treat from local favorite, Kara's Cupcakes.

Tickets available in mid-September. This program will sell out!

SCHOOL AND GROUP PROGRAMS

Begin October 2014
Registration is currently open

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.

ON-GOING PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Animals In Action
Tues-Sat, 11:00am

Otter Feeding
Tues-Sun, 12:00 noon

Bobcat Feeding
Tues-Sun, 1:00pm

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