



Thank You for Helping us Meet our 414 Day Giving Challenge!

We are deeply proud to have raised over \$20,000 from nearly 100 (!) donors during our annual fundraiser, **414 Days for UWM**. What a show of community appreciation and support. Thank you, and many thanks to Tony and Vicki Cecalupo for their matching support.

Dear UWM Planetarium Friends,



Director Jean on her recent trip to Greece.

One of the reasons I love summer is that it affords blocks of times to work on bigger projects. I am working closely with Jay in our production team to streamline our summer show, [Shooting Stars](#), so that we can convey cool facts about what causes shooting stars.

Designing the programs involves decisions about what needs to be cut. For example, I won't get into the weeds about how asteroids and comets formed from the solar nebula. But you can ask me about it!

Another cool project is collecting pictures from each of my 20 years as the Planetarium Director. These photos will form the basis of a special program in the fall to wrap up the 60th anniversary of the UWM Planetarium. Did I really start Astrobreaks (free lunch-time programs), in 2007? Yes, and they continued until 2018! My first paper published in the Planetarian, co-written with Dr. Sandy Martell in 2010, was about techniques to identify constellations. I hope you will join me on November 14 at 2:00 pm when I will share stories about my favorite moments at our planetarium.

I recently chatted with WUWM Lake Effect's Audrey Nowakowski about the [NASA Artemis program's first crewed mission to the Moon](#)

in April. How wonderful to see a group of people who obviously like each other make history. A whole new generation has experienced the excitement of sending people to orbit the Moon!

I hope to see you soon under the stars,

Jean



Upcoming Events

UWM | Manfred Olson Planetarium

Shooting Stars

Fridays, July 10, 17, 24, 31, 2026

7:00pm - 8:00pm

\$7 General / \$5 UWM Students

Many know shooting stars as striking trails of light, but their name is misleading since they are neither shooting nor stars. Find out how to witness these mesmerizing meteors for yourself!

UWM Physics Bldg.
Room # 139

Shooting Stars

Fridays, July 10 - 31

7:00 - 8:00 pm

Many know shooting stars as striking trails of light, but their name is misleading since they are neither shooting nor stars. These streaks of light, also known as meteors, are caused by fragments of either comets or asteroids. Find out how to witness these mesmerizing light trails for yourself!

Get Tickets

FREE

UWM | Manfred Olson Planetarium

Stars and S'mores

Saturday, August 29, 2026

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Enjoy eating delicious s'mores and catch a free 15-minute planetarium stargazing show. S'mores kits are free (one per person while supplies last). Planetarium shows will run every 20 minutes, rain or shine.

UWM Physics Bldg.
Room # 139

Stars and S'mores

Saturday, August 29

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Enjoy a fun night of stargazing and delicious s'mores! Join us outside while roasting marshmallows, playing games, and meeting new people. S'mores kits are free (one per person while supplies last). Catch a free 20-minute indoor planetarium stargazing show. Planetarium shows will run every 30 minutes, rain or shine.

[More Info](#)

FREE

Observe the Moon Night

Saturday, September 19, 2026 | 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Learn about our closest celestial neighbor in a free 20-minute planetarium show and, weather permitting, gaze at the Moon through our telescopes.

UWM Physics Bldg.
Room # 139

UWM Manfred Olson Planetarium

Observe the Moon Night

Saturday, September 19

7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

It's International Observe the Moon Night! This event, created by NASA, is happening all over the country and around the world. Join the planetarium in celebrating our closest celestial neighbor, the Moon. You can catch one of our free 20-minute indoor planetarium shows covering lunar exploration as well as cultural connections to the Moon. Weather permitting, step outside and gaze at the Moon through our telescope.

[More Info](#)



News



Our private group fees are increasing soon (from \$75 to \$85 for school groups and \$175 to \$185 for all other groups). Book your private show before August 1, 2026 to lock in the lower fee!

[Book Your Private Show](#)



Artemis II mission is the 'right message for the moment,' said UWM planetarium director Jean Creighton on her most recent *Lake Effect* Astronomy Contributor interview on WUWM.

[Get the Full Story](#)



Get Involved

We Are Hiring!



UWM Student Planetarium Presenter

Do you know a UWM student who wants to share their love of astronomy with others? We are searching the cosmos for a Planetarium Presenter to host planetarium shows for groups of all ages. Training will be provided. More information is [available on our website](#).

Job Opportunities

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Become a Member





Manfred Olson Planetarium
1900 E Kenwood Blvd
Milwaukee, WI 53211

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