

The Wadesboro Rotary Planetarium and Science Center, an Anson County Schools learning resource center, will present a special program that combines astronomy and holiday traditions. *The Season of Light*, a 35 minute full-dome video projected on the planetarium dome, is an elegant and sophisticated program about the coldest and darkest of seasons - a time which holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the year.

This presentation traces the history and development of many of the world's most endearing holiday customs, all of which involve lighting up the winter season - from the burning Yule log, sparkling Christmas tree lights and candles in windows, to the lighting of luminaries in the American Southwest and the traditional ritual of the Hanukkah Menorah.

The show also recounts the historical religious and cultural rituals practiced during the time of winter solstice, not only Christian and Jewish, but also Celtic, Nordic, Roman, Irish, Mexican and Hopi. It also takes a look at some of our more light-hearted seasonal traditions, from gift-giving and kissing under the mistletoe, to songs about lords a-leaping and ladies dancing, and the custom of decking the halls with greenery and candles. St. Nicholas, Sinterklaas, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas and Santa Claus all drop by as well.

Naturally there is some astronomy in *Season of Light*. Audiences learn a selection of Northern hemisphere winter constellations, and find out why we even have seasons, as we demonstrate the Sun's path across the sky throughout the year, and the Earth's tilt and orbit around the Sun. And, of course, the program explores the possible astronomical explanations for a 'Star over Bethlehem' in the last quarter of the show - comets, meteors, novae and supernovae, and planetary conjunctions.

Audiences will also have a chance to experience the planetarium's new full dome projection system, with information on seasonal stargazing as well as a trip through the solar system's planets. A hands-on trip in the animal room, the Lives of the Tree exhibit, the John Kiker exhibit and a look at the extensive mineral collection, donated by Ansonian T. D. Burns, will be available during the visit.

The Season of Light show is designed for all ages. The cost of the show and visiting the animal room at the Science Center is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. All proceeds from admissions will help finance the purchase of future full-dome digital science shows. Seats are limited in the dome to 20. Reservations are encouraged. Please call the Rotary Planetarium and Science Center at 704-694-4417 ext 01005 and leave a message with your name, contact number, and the number of seats you would like to reserve. Church groups may call and talk with Wendy Efird, Planetarium Director, if they would like to schedule a private showing for their group.

Here is the show schedule:

- Sunday, December 20 at 4:30 p.m.
- Monday, December 21 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Anson Animal Shelter Needs Volunteers.

Would You Like to Help?

The Animal Shelter depends on the help of volunteers to ensure that animal residents receive love and care. More volunteers will also help relieve the workload on staff which can result in more time for resident animals to be adopted before they are euthanized (put to sleep). Please consider volunteering. For more information on helping, call 704-694-4832.

Are you interested in adopting a pet?

Anson County Animal Shelter is listed on *Petfinder.com*. This is a searchable national database of pets available for adoption that includes a description and photo. All the animals that are up for adoption are listed and have a picture. Just go to *Petfinder.com* and search for any Anson County town or zip code.

A rescue from Animal Shelter can bring lots of happiness and love into any home...and you will make the animal happy too! It's a win-win.

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