

# ARTS and COMMUNITY 2017 Eclipse

Oregon State University and the  
Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club

**Julia Bradshaw**

Associate Professor, Art and Art History



Oregon State  
University

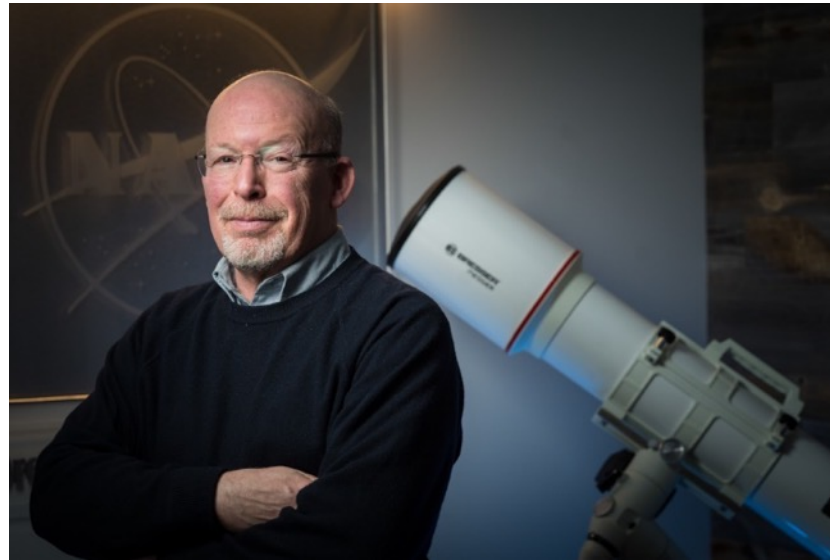
# Collaboration between Arts and Sciences with the goal of a safe, creative, and informative experience.



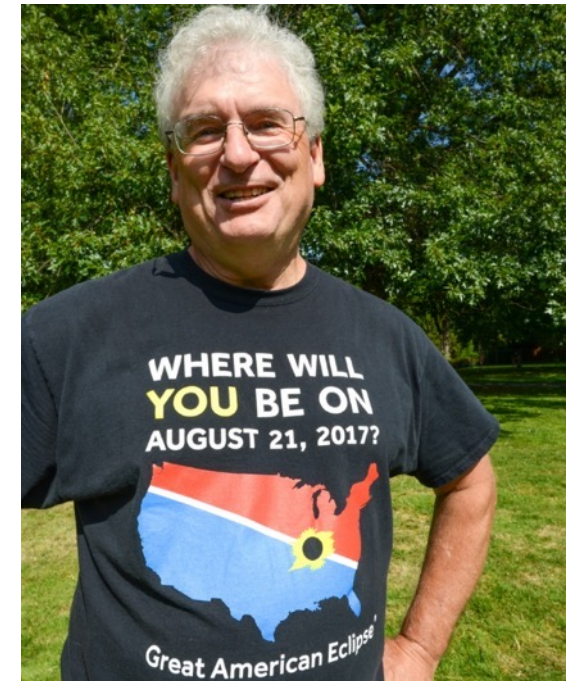
**Julia Bradshaw**  
**Arts at OSU**



**Randall Milstein**  
**Science and NASA**  
**interface at OSU**



**Tom Carrico**  
**Heart of the Valley**  
**Astronomy Club**

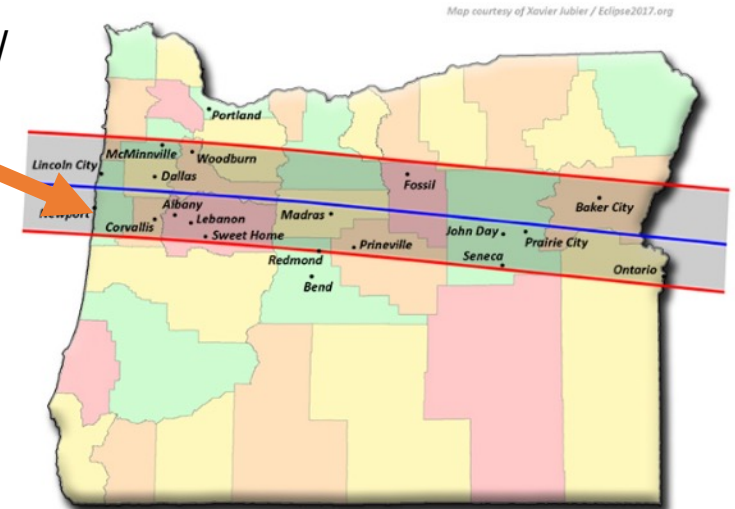




# Community – Safe, creative, informative, experiences

- **Photography Workshops**
- **Community Outreach – Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club**
- **Arts activities during the Eclipse Weekend**

Corvallis/OSU/



Map from Xavier Jubier eclipse2017.org

- **Not covering:** the science and NASA activities that started at OSU (Randall Milstein will be here during the Q&A if you want to ask him questions about that)



# Photography Workshops

## Teach people how to make a solar filter and photograph the sun





# Photography Workshops

Nine workshops from April to eclipse in August.

Had between 20 – 30 people in each workshop

Open to all – community and students

Held in the Oregon State University Art building on Saturdays.

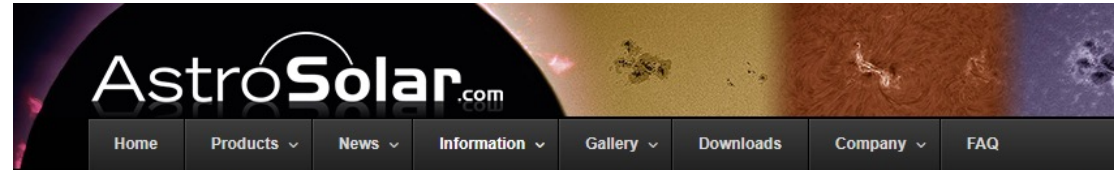




# Step One – Make a solar filter

## Instructions available on the internet

- Astrosolar.com
- Through a donation to our university, we were able to offer these workshops for free.
- Our labour was free – volunteers from OSU and the Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club
- A roll of solar filter material was ca. \$400 and lasted for all 9 workshops
- We also bought cardboard, tape, glue, and provided scissors etc.



[Home](#) » [Information](#) » [How To – build your own solar filter](#) » How to make your own objective solar filter for your camera, telescope, spotting scope or binocular

## How to make your own objective solar filter for your camera, telescope, spotting scope or binocular



What you need for making your own solar filter: Baader AstroSolar® Safety Film 5.0 or Baader AstroSolar® Photo Film 3.8 (do not use Photo Film for visual observation!), two sheets of white stiff cardboard, pair of scissors, compass, some pieces of "Kleenex"-tissue, double-faced adhesive tape, paper glue

1. Using the compass, draw two circles on pieces of stiff cardboard. The inner diameter should match the full aperture of the objective lens, the outer diameter should be 10cm (~4") larger. Cut the two disks from the cardboard.
2. In order to minimize the volume of air between the filter and objective lens, it is advisable to mount the ready made filter directly onto the tube of the telescope / binocular, rather than onto an additional dew cap. If the dew cap cannot be removed from your telescope, its outer diameter will provide the minimum size of the outer ring of your





# Prepared materials before the workshop

We provided cardboard, glue, tape, scissors etc.

We pre-cut cardboard discs with varying aperture sizes, so that we could accommodate the varying types of camera lenses





# Presentations on how to photograph the sun safely and what to expect during the eclipse. Led by the Heart of the Valley Astronomy club members.



Note: props –  
such as a  
colander





# Then we went outside and practiced



Taught participants how to put their cameras on manual etc.



**We worked with whatever the person had with them**





## We handed out eclipse glasses – courtesy of Oregon State University to all attendees



**IMPORTANT** – need to warn participants to make sure eclipse glasses are ISO 12312-2

Safety was a large part of the workshop information



# Lessons learned

- Workshops were a GREAT early way to get the word out about the eclipse and to start educating the public about how and where to observe the eclipse safely. We started in April 2017 for the August 2017 eclipse.
- People liked making their own filters
- The partnership between the art department (good at making things out of cardboard) and the members of the Heart of the Valley Astronomy club (retirees – had time and interest in outreach to grow their club).
- We could have run more workshops



# Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club - Outreach



**Tom Carrico** – President of the Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club will be on the Q&A portion of today’s session to answer your questions.

Members of the HOTA club set up solar viewers outside the library on a monthly basis



## Community Outreach – Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club

- Met local government agencies for outreach starting 8 months before totality
  - Office of the governor, travel Oregon, Forest Service, Sheriff, City and Regional planners, local libraries, Public Broadcasting. These agencies were all looking for technical info about the eclipse so they could better plan.
- Met with businesses to help them understand impact
- Materials available in Spanish and English
  - Juntos outreach at OSU
- HOTVA club attendance increased
  - More community interest,
  - more star parties,
  - more social media traffic



Tom Carrico at the County Fair



## Community Outreach – Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club

- All this led to HOTVA giving > 60 presentations that reached ~ 3000 people in the valley
- Presentations were typically standing room only, leading to the scheduling of even more presentations
- Typically an hour, eclipse glasses given away by hosts, safe viewing demonstrations if during the day



Presentations mainly organized through institutions, libraries etc.



# Community Outreach – Heart of the Valley Astronomy Club

## LESSONS LEARNED

- **Set up standing meetings (monthly?, weekly?)** that the community can drop in on. The presentations we made worked well, but were driven by organizations. I think some folks just missed out because they were not part of government or organizations and did not get the invites
- **Have weekly zoom chats** for people that cannot attend meetings
- **Increase social media presence** so folks know where to go for information
- **More safe viewing practice sessions**
  - Weekend events leading up to totality
- **Improved coordination with agencies** like Travel Oregon to help people get to good viewing sites.
  - Travel Oregon was wonderful, the club could have done more with them, I believe







# Oregon State University Arts Activities – “TOTALITY”

## **TOTALITY**

Julia Bradshaw curated an Art exhibition titled “Totality” by artists who make artwork about our Cosmos



# Oregon State University Arts Activities - TOTALITY

## Julia Oldham



Laika's Lullaby – animated film

## Julie Anand and Damon Sauer



photographed the x-shaped calibration markers from a once top-secret spying project by the US government.



## Arts at Oregon State University – Other Arts Activities

**Qwo Li Driskill** created a poetry and writing workshop from the indigenous perspective – story-telling and eclipse’ in native communities.





# Arts at Oregon State University – Sun Prints



Making cyanotypes –  
sun-prints





# Arts at Oregon State University – Button Making



Cosmic button-making using old sky and telescope magazines





# Arts at Oregon State University – Story-telling

During the eclipse weekend, we prepared for 6000 visitors to the OSU campus. Arts provided activities for all.



Cosmic story-telling  
with local author  
**Eric Dickey**



# Arts at Oregon State University – Music Performance

Musicians **Ryan Biesack** and **Micheal Gamble** created an electronic light show and music experience.





# Arts at Oregon State University – Alien Mural



Artist **Johnny Beaver** created an alien inspired mural – he was present to talk to visitors







# Arts at Oregon State University – Performance Art

Cosmic performance art with **Kaitlyn Wittig Mengüç** using light and shadow





# Arts at Oregon State University – LECTURE

- **Total Eclipse of the Art: How Artists Visualize the Sun, Moon and Cosmos**
- In this illustrated lecture, art historian **Dr. Liena Vayzman** considered ways that historical and contemporary artists have imagined and visualized the cosmos, particularly the sun and moon – easily observable by humans and the subject of myth-making, speculation and worship in many cultures.



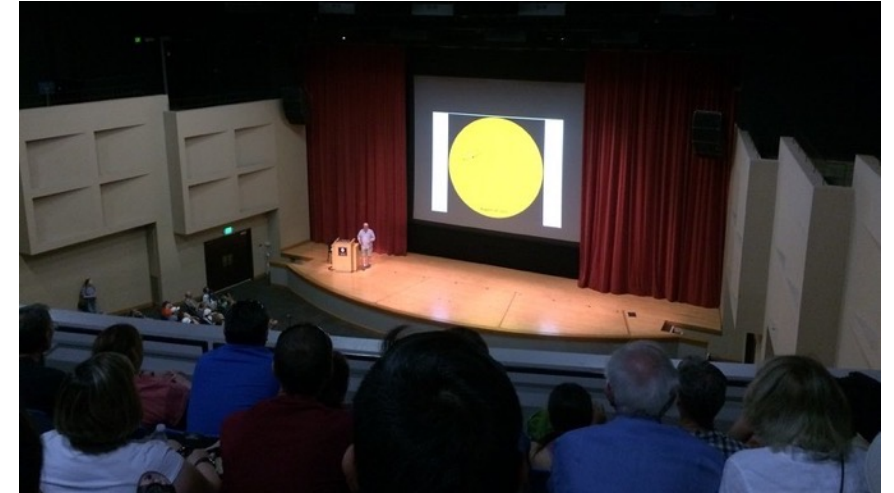
Astronomers Studying an eclipse  
painted by Antoine Caron in 1571



# Dr. Randall Milstein – NASA astronomer in residence at OSU - gave 40+ talks

Dr. Randall Milstein will be available at the Q&A to answer questions about the science community outreach activities at OSU.

Oregon was the launch site for the NASA Total Solar Eclipse Ballooning project.





# Arts Activities – Lessons Learned

- The Arts at OSU were involved way too late. If this had been term-time, I would not have been able to curate an exhibition. There would have been no arts space available – secure an arts space, hire a curator, allocate budget for the arts.
- The curated art exhibition “Totality” demonstrated an intellectual relationship between arts and science – this was extremely beneficial to our audience.
- People came to OSU and Corvallis for the science and the eclipse – but the eclipse is a family occasion. The arts activities played a large part in making the eclipse family friendly.
- Working with Tom and Randy as collaborators demonstrated how the arts and sciences work together.

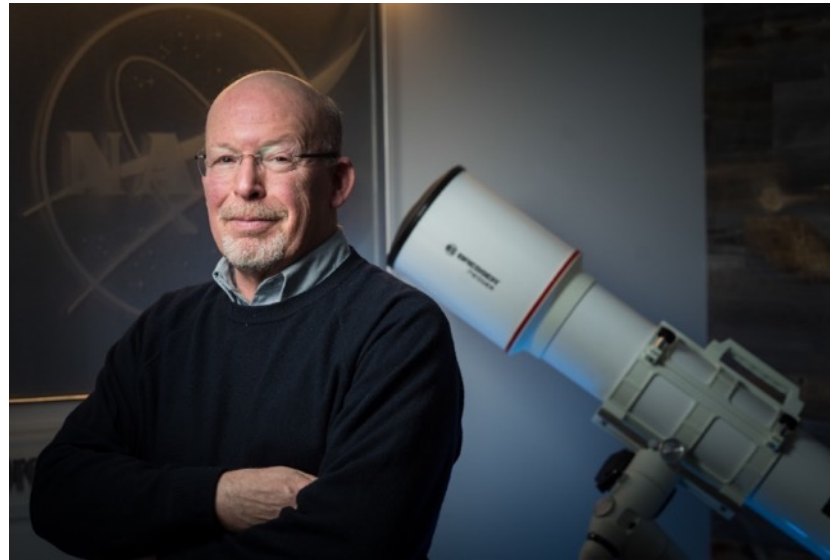
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