

# CORNELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Greetings readers and welcome back to Cornell! The spring 2024 semester is finally here, and with it comes some very exciting events.

Up first, we are delighted to announce that on February 13, Ann Druyan will be joining us for a Q&A session following a viewing of Carl Sagan's *Cosmos* at the Cornell Cinema. More information will be listed on the next page about this event. Tickets are [sold out](#), but there will be a free waiting line on the day of the event to fill unclaimed seats. Additionally, Professor James Cordes will be giving a lecture as a part of our upcoming *Voyager* Spacecraft-themed programming. Additional information about this event will also be listed in the following pages.

On April 8, 2024, a total solar eclipse will be visible in some parts of New York. When viewing the eclipse, make sure to use certified eclipse glasses from the American Astronomical Society website. Ithaca will receive around 99% coverage, but this is not enough to remove your eclipse glasses at any point during the eclipse. If you do travel to an area that is in the path of totality (map of totality linked [here](#)), never look at the sun with just your eyes outside of totality. Wear the eclipse glasses until totality hits, then put them back on just before totality ends. After this year, the next total solar eclipse visible in North America will not occur until 2044, so make sure to make plans to see this incredible event.

Our first full length newsletter of the semester will be released at the beginning of next month. Until then, thank you for reading and we hope to see you at the observatory!

Abigail Bohl, Editor in Chief

**CORNELL CINEMA and  
CORNELL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY  
present Episode 6 of**

# **COSMOS**

**featuring Audience Q&A with  
ANN DRUYAN**

**Cosmos Co-Producer**

**February 13th, 2024**

**Doors open 6:30 PM for Cornell Dairy “Cosmos Swirl”**

**Tickets are free, but reserve your spot: [cinema.cornell.edu/cinema-events](http://cinema.cornell.edu/cinema-events)**

As part of our “Voyager Spacecraft Week,” CAS joins Cornell Cinema in presenting *Cosmos* Episode 6: Traveler’s Tales. Carl Sagan transports us to 17th century Holland, where Dutch explorers and astronomers found freedom to question the natural world. Later, he explores the voyages of interplanetary spacecraft, and their groundbreaking views of the outer planets. Tickets are free and currently [sold out](#), but there will be a waiting line on the day of the event to fill unclaimed seats.

After the showing, Carl Sagan’s wife and co-producer Ann Druyan will feature in a live Q&A with the audience. In addition to her work on *Cosmos* in 1980, Ann Druyan was the writer and producer for the two newer seasons of *Cosmos* (*A Spacetime Odyssey* in 2014 and *Possible Worlds* in 2020). She has written and co-written dozens of books, television shows, and movies, including six books with Carl Sagan and the film adaptation of *Contact*. She was also a member of the Voyager Golden Record team, which selected pictures, sounds, and music from Earth to cast out into space; her heartbeat and brain waves will roam the stars for millions of years.



# VOYAGER SPACECRAFT WEEK! FEB. 12-16

**Tuesday, February 13, 6:30–8:30 PM**

Cosmos Episode 6 details the discoveries of the Voyager spacecraft. After the showing, Carl Sagan's wife and co-producer Ann Druyan will feature in a live Q&A with the audience. Ann Druyan was a member of the Voyager Golden Record team; her heartbeat and brain waves will roam the stars for millions of years.



**Wednesday, February 14**

Valentine's Day, but also the anniversary of the Pale Blue Dot image! In 1990, Voyager 1 snapped an image of Earth from over 3 billion miles away. Carl Sagan dubbed this view of our planet "The Pale Blue Dot." [Here's a link](#) to his infamous speech that accompanies the image.

**Friday, February 16, 7–8 PM**  
Appel Multipurpose Room 303  
**Lecture Series: Prof. James Cordes**

Prof. James Cordes will kick off our lecture series with his research on the space between the stars! Forty-five years after launch, the Voyagers have left the magnetic influence of the Sun, but they continue to send back data on the composition of molecules there.



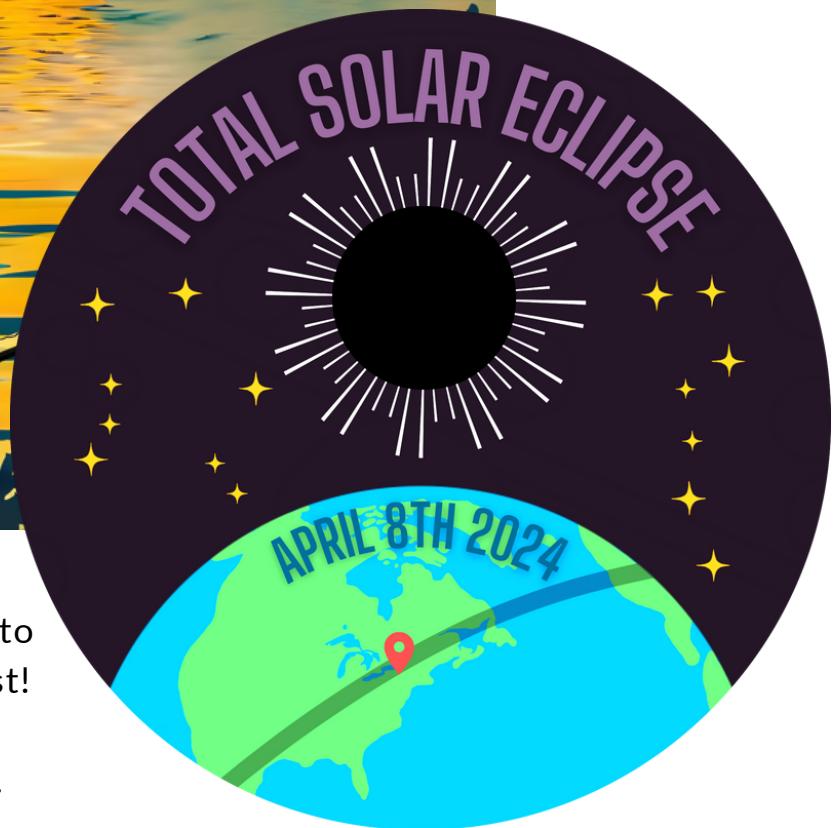
# TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE

## NEW YORK



Congratulations  
to our eclipse  
design contest  
winners:

Valerio Poggiali  
(poster) and  
Peter He  
(sticker)!



Come to our Friday night open houses to receive a free sticker while supplies last!

We will also produce some of our runner-up designs closer to April 8th.

# CREDITS

## CAS Officers

Gillis Lowry, President  
Ben Jacobson-Bell, Vice President  
Haonan Gong, Treasurer  
Ben Shapiro, Outreach Coordinator  
Abigail Bohl, Editor in Chief  
Phil Nicholson, Faculty Advisor

## Special thanks

Andrew Lewis for providing image  
Ann Druyan!

## Eclipse contest winners

Valerio Poggiali  
Peter He

Cornell Astronomical Society (CAS) is a student-run non-profit organization founded in 1972.

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