



# What's Up With the Astronomical League December 2023

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Compiled by Carroll  
Iorg, President

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## Call for Astronomical League Treasurer Candidates

Our Treasurer, William Dillon, is reaching the end of his second three-year term as League Treasurer. He has done a fabulous job of managing our financials, including the additional duties required for handling the League's bequests, etc. in our Trust Fund accounts. As part of the revised job description, the Treasurer also serves as a Trustee and Treasurer of the Astronomical League Trust Fund.

The Treasurer manages the League's finances, cash flow, financial planning, budgeting and financial reporting, and numerous other related financial duties. This includes working with other professionals to file the annual IRS 990 report, get professional outside assistance advice with investment decisions, etc.

Desired qualifications include a strong understanding of accounting rules and procedures, strong analytical skills, and an ability to explain financials in an understandable manner. A CPA certification is a plus. The Treasurer would be glad to provide more information about the position to interested candidates.

**If you would like an opportunity to give back to the League by standing as a candidate for this volunteer position, please notify the President at [president@astroleague.org](mailto:president@astroleague.org).**

# ALCON 2024 GOING TO KANSAS CITY FOR STARS AND ALL THAT JAZZ!

### SPEAKERS INCLUDE

- ★ Keivan Stassun, Professor of Physics and Astronomy, Vanderbilt University
- ★ Tim Russ, actor, musician screenwriter, director and amateur astronomer
- ★ Stephon Alexander, theoretical physicist, musician and author, Brown University
- ★ David Levy, comet hunter, amateur astronomer and science writer



### EVENING EVENTS

- ★ Gottlieb Planetarium
- ★ Linda Hall Library, Rare Books Room
- ★ StarBQ at Overland Park Arboretum
- ★ Powell Observatory
- ★ Awards Banquet

### VENDORS INCLUDE

- ★ DayStar Filters
- ★ Explore Scientific

JULY 17-20, 2024

DOUBLETREE BY HILTON, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS

REGISTRATION INFO COMING SOON! CHECK [ASKC.ORG](http://ASKC.ORG)

Hosted by



## Miscellaneous 2023 Award Presentation Photos



First place Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Award winner for 2023 Avni Dhargalkar, a member of the Chester County Astronomical Society. Don Knabb, MERAL chair, made the presentation.



First place AL Webmaster Award presented to Bernard Argriere, Astronomy Club of Asheville, by club vice president Paul Henze.

Photo courtesy Knox Worde, Club president.



John Martin, Webmaster of the Astronomical League, was presented with one of the 2023 GR Wright Awards at the November meeting of the Rochester (MN) Astronomy Club.

The award was presented by League President Carroll Iorg for John's outstanding work in managing the major upgrade to the Astronomical League website.

John accomplished this major feat while working at his regular IT job full time.



## Miscellaneous 2023 Award Presentation Photos (continued)

Thérèse Bauer, a member of the Rochester (MN) Astronomy Club, was presented her second-place Horkheimer/O'Meara Journalism Award plaque at the November Club meeting by AL President Carroll Iorg.

Thérèse's mother is shown at her left. Other Club members are shown in the back row.

Thérèse's essay entry was titled "Cookies and Cooperation on the International Space Station."



Bernie Venasse (left), chairman of the Hamilton Amateur Astronomers, located in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was one of several recipients of the Astronomical League's Master Observers Awards at ALCon 2023 in Baton Rouge. He is a lifetime member of the League.

If you are a Master Observer who has not received your plaque recognizing your outstanding accomplishment, we would love to have you attend ALCon 2024 in Kansas City, July 17-20, 2024, to receive your award in person. Registration will be open in the next few weeks, where you can register and sign up to receive your award.

Photo credit: BRAS

León Garcia (right) tied for first place in the 2023 National Young Astronomer Award competition. He attended ALCon 2023, hosted by the Baton Rouge Astronomical Society, and received his plaque in person.

The deadline for submissions for the 2024 NYAA award program is March 31, 2024. The application and related instructions can be found at <https://www.astroleague.org> under the Awards section. If you have additional questions, email us at [NYAA@astroleague.org](mailto:NYAA@astroleague.org).



## Photos (continued)



Kaitlyn Wang was the first-place tie winner for the 2023 National Young Astronomer Award.

The title of her project was “Discovery of the Smallest Ultra-Short-Period Planet Using GPFC; A Novel GPU-Parallelized Phase Folding Detection System.” She discovered three new exoplanets from the Kepler survey that are earth sized.

Photo credit: BRAS

ALCon 2023 attendee Scott Harrington is shown at LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) in Livingston, Louisiana during the side trip to the facility.

LIGO is a large-scale physics experiment and observatory designed to detect cosmic gravitational waves and to develop gravitational-wave observations as an astronomical tool.

LIGO is the largest and most ambitious project ever funded by the National Science Foundation. In 2017, the Nobel prize in physics was awarded to Rainer Weiss, Kip Thorne, and Barry C. Barish for “decisive” contributions to the LIGO detector and the observation of gravitational waves.

Photo credit: BRAS



## 2024 Delaware Astronomical Society Book Club Calendar

**The Delaware Astronomical Society sponsors a book club for astronomers to participate in. For next month the information is as follows:**

### January 25

AL Members can email [librarian@delastro.org](mailto:librarian@delastro.org) and they will be provided with the Book Club email list and sent Zoom links to meetings.

Ormsby Macknight Mitchel,  
Astronomer and  
General: A Biographical  
Narrative (1887)

By Frederick Augustus  
Mitchel

Philip S. Shoemaker, PhD,  
author of *Ormsby Macknight  
Mitchel and Astronomy in  
Antebellum America*, and  
Trudy E. Bell, contributing  
editor for *Sky & Telescope*,  
will join us. Brad Wolvin will  
lead the meeting.



January 19, 2024. 7:00 PM EST



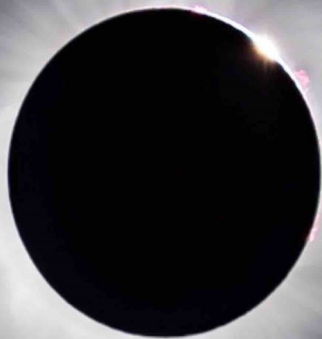
**LIVE 2024!**

ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE



**Alan Dyer**

○ *Photographing* ○  
*the 2024 Solar Eclipse*



*also*

**Carroll Iorg,  
Terry Mann,  
Scott Roberts,  
and David Levy**



**Astronomical.League**

**ALCon 2024:  
Kansas City, July 17–20, 2024**

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[www.facebook.com/Astronomical.League](https://www.facebook.com/Astronomical.League)**